

Ozal clears first hurdle

ANEARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, defying an opposition boycott, was elected on Friday for the presidency despite missing outright victory in first round voting. Deputies from the two parliamentary opposition parties sat outside the half-empty chamber where the vote was held, accusing Ozal of ignoring public opinion to run through his candidacy for what the constitution stipulates should be a non-partisan post. Ozal also faces opposition within his own Motherland Party. Former Foreign Minister Tizit Tizit became the fourth deputy from the party to resign in two days in protest at the election. "I am against the election of a president in the absence of the opposition. From now on, as an independent deputy, I will work for early general elections," Tizit told reporters. But 247 votes of 285 cast went to Ozal, the most controversial presidential candidate since the Turkish republic was founded from the ashes of Ottoman empire in 1923. Candidates need 300 votes from the 450-seat parliament — a two-thirds majority — to win in the first or second round but Ozal appeared assured of victory in the third round of voting on Oct. 31 when only a simple majority is needed.



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Qasem holds talks in Brussels

BRUSSELS (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Qasem has stressed Jordan's support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) policy "as well as its realistic and moderate line towards attaining the peace. During a meeting with the Belgian foreign minister Thursday, Qasem discussed bilateral relations and agreed on the need to continue contacts so as to reactivate mutual cooperation in all fields. Qasem explained the latest developments in the Middle East region and the efforts exerted to attain a political settlement in the Middle East. The Belgian minister expressed appreciation for His Majesty King Hussein's active endeavours to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East. He accepted Qasem's invitation to visit Jordan in early 1990. During a meeting held earlier with the European Economic Community (EEC) commissioner, Qasem discussed Jordan-EEC relations and the need to expand mutual cooperation. He also reviewed efforts being exerted to set up a firm economic strategy for Jordan "that ensures development and progress and forestalls future shocks."

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King: Israel poses nuclear threat

OXFORD, England (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has warned that nuclear weapons were adding a "new and more dangerous" dimension to the Middle East conflict and called on Israel to take the lead in seeking peace.

"It is unacceptable that as the superpowers destroy their intermediate-range nuclear missiles, Israel develops more advanced intermediate-range delivery systems having stockpiled nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction," King Hussein said.

In a lecture to the Cyril Foster Committee at Oxford University on the prospects of peace in the Middle East, the King said Israel's additional weapons have destabilised the area and forced other countries to seek similar weapon systems.

"This adds a new and more dangerous dimension to the regional arms race, and dramatically raises the potential for destructive conflict," he said.

In the search for a Middle East settlement the "next act of statesmanship" has to come from the Israeli government which has lagged behind international consensus, and to a certain extent behind public opinion in Israel itself, the King said.

"I believe that the peace process has been frustrated by the lack of clarity resulting from Israel's indecision," he said. "It may well be of course that we have not fully grasped the extent of Israel's psychological insecurity. But we have tried very hard to allay its concerns in a variety of ways."

He said that successive Arab summits in the last decade or so

had sought to assure Israel of a place in a reconstructed Middle East.

Following are major excerpts from the King's speech:

The intifada has had a major impact on how the Palestinians currently perceive a possible outcome of their legitimate struggle to gain their national rights. With a new impetus to Palestinian aspirations it also brings greater political realism. Previously, political realism looked ominously like political suicide, now it is not so. The goal, as perceived by the Palestinians, has become attainable. The intifada is an effective guarantee of the continuation of the struggle should all else fail. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is now in a position to advocate the Palestinian cause on the basis of international and regional realities. In short, the fear of losing the "last card" has now been effectively removed.

The Palestinians have made a historic compromise. They have set aside the dream of regaining a homeland in the whole of mandated Palestine and are now willing to accept an independent state on less than a third of that area, in the West Bank and Gaza ... an independent state on Palestinian soil, not on territory that is taken from Israel. By accepting Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and renouncing violence, they have chosen the path of peaceful negotiations. This was made clear during President Arafat's address to the United Nations General Assembly in Geneva, and in several subsequent statements.

Jordan was actively engaged in the deliberations that led to the adoption of Resolution 242 and, with Egypt, was the first to accept it. As legal guardians of the West Bank, we felt duty bound to regain the territories extracted from us by an act of war. But we kept an open mind on the disposition of the territories in the post-liberation period. In 1972 we

formulated the United Arab Kingdom proposal offering three options to the Palestinians:

- Return to unity as before.
- Full independence, or
- Federation between Jordan and Palestine.

When the Rabat summit of 1974 designated the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the summit called on Jordan to continue representing Palestinian interests in the West Bank. We agreed to do so because disengaging from the West Bank at that time would have created a political vacuum, with no feasible alternative in sight. Israel would then have exploited that situation to annex the West Bank.

In the wake of the Arab summit of Fez in 1982, which formulated a peace plan envisaging an independent Palestinian state, our efforts to coordinate a joint position with the PLO met with Palestinian scepticism and — ironically — with Israeli rejection. The Israelis persisted in flouting their so-called Jordan option, while the Palestinians continued to question our motives and ultimate intentions.

The situation now has changed dramatically due to a) the facts of the intifada and b) Jordan's legal and administrative disengagement from the West Bank. The future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip must now be determined through negotiations between the parties immediately concerned. We make no claim to the territories but stand ready to assist the Palestinians in any way we can. By disengaging from the West Bank, Jordan has enabled the PLO to cast aside its suspicious and engage us and the world community in a serious dialogue about its vision of the future. Current PLO talks with the United States and Europe are a clear indication of how far we have moved during the last year towards a more precise definition of the issues.

Hard as one tries to detect some element of consistency in the desperate statements made by Israeli cabinet

ministers, no common thread can be discerned — except, perhaps, on the need to end the intifada. Whereas Palestinian and Arab leaders have reached broad agreement on the main thrust and principal components of a settlement, there seems to be little or no accord among the Israeli leadership on the fundamental questions pertaining to peace.

For example:

Does Israel accept the principle of the exchange of territory for peace?

Will Israel stop insubordinating people's intelligence with its claim that there are two 242s, one that was applied to Sinai, and a different one to be applied to the Palestinian territories and Golan Heights?

What does an acceptance of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 mean, if it does not recognise the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war?

Should Israel view its security concerns from a standpoint of confined hostility or within the framework of a permanent peace?

Can Israel remain a predominantly Jewish and democratic state whilst holding on to the occupied territories, with their one-and-a-half million Arabs?

Is it in Israel's interest to have a permanently disenfranchised people under its wing? Or should it recognise the same right of self-determination for the Palestinians as it has striven so hard to achieve for itself?

Does Israel, in the prevailing mood of détente, wish to keep its people isolated from their neighbours?

While not wishing to tell the Israelis how they should resolve these questions, I believe that the peace process has been frustrated by the lack of clarity resulting from Israel's indecision.

I believe that once the Israeli government comes to grips with the objective conditions and new realities... the possibility of rapid progress in this search for peace in the Middle

East will be greatly enhanced. I hope that Israel will come to the same conclusion with the help of its friends and supporters. The way forward then would be for all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO, to enter into negotiations in an international conference under United Nations auspices. I remain convinced that an international peace conference, attended by the permanent members of the security council, is indispensable to negotiations. Israel's agreement to this formula would in itself be no mean act of statesmanship.

I shall probably be taken to task for sounding rather optimistic. But, true to my theme, I believe the following assertions are in order:

First: Given the significant change in Palestinian aims, attitudes, and methods in the last several months, Israel's objections to discussions with the legitimate representatives of the Palestinians — perhaps understandable to some in the past — have now become obsolete.

Second: Given the mood of global détente, the changing relations between the superpowers and their respective clients give an amended structure and mandate for an international peace conference. Israel's misgivings about the conference — perhaps understandable to some extent in the past — need not be an insurmountable hindrance now.

Third: Given recent successes by the Security Council and the secretary general of the United Nations in negotiating regional conflicts, and given the current moderate stance of the General Assembly on world issues, Israel's fear of undue international pressure — perhaps understandable to some in the past — is no longer tenable.

Fourth: Given the emerging sub-groupings in the Arab World, the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel and the fluid relations among states in the region, a new concept of peace that would be larger than the sum of its present components is now possible.



A scene from San Francisco's Marina district after Tuesday's quake

Death toll estimates drop; aftershocks rock California

SAN FRANCISCO (Agencies) — The death toll in the northern California earthquake could be dramatically lower than initial estimates of 270, rescue officials said Friday as more aftershocks rocked the stricken area.

"It's looking much better than we feared," said one worker helping tunnel into a huge mass of concrete that buried dozens of vehicles when Tuesday's earthquake brought down more than 1.5 kilometres of the two-tier Interstate 880 highway in Oakland.

Initial estimates placed the death toll at about 270 from the deadliest earthquake to hit the United States since the 1906 San Francisco earthquake that killed 452 people and whose resulting fires virtually destroyed the city.

The estimate for Tuesday's quake was lowered Friday to less than 120.

A moderate aftershock at 1:13 a.m. (0513) Friday registered 3.9 on the Richter scale, said Rick McKenzie at the seismographic station at the University of California at Berkeley. It was felt north and south of the city, but the epicentre was not immediately known.

President George Bush planned to tour the ravaged San Francisco bay area later Friday, hoping "to take a look and to provide encouragement to people."

People in the region worked Thursday to clean up the rubble and repair the damage from one of the region's worst earthquakes since a massive temblor in 1906

destroyed most of San Francisco. Bush has declared the region home to about six million people — a disaster area and allocated an initial \$273 million from the federal government to help in relief efforts.

Damage estimates by the state office of emergency services rose to well over \$4 billion. But a private economist, Frank McCormick of Bank of America in San Francisco, said damage was likely to reach \$10 billion. An estimated 12,550 people were displaced, 10,000 in hard-hit Santa Cruz county, the emergency services agency said.

In some towns, residents said they were too afraid to sleep indoors because of the earth's unrest. Four strong aftershocks rattled the area Thursday.

"I can't stop shaking," said Marcelina Toussaint, a 73-year-old resident of Watsonville, a town near the epicentre of Tuesday's quake, which registered 6.9 on the Richter scale. "I guess I'm serving, but I'm scared."

Lisa Covington, acting spokeswoman for rescue efforts, said the death toll "might end up being less than 120 people."

Authorities said the chances of finding anyone alive under the rubble of hundreds of destroyed or partially collapsed buildings were extremely remote. An approaching storm and predictions of record-low temperatures near freezing would add to the misery of thousands of people out of their homes.

Officials said it appeared there may have been fewer motorists

than usual on the elevated Interstate 880 when the earthquake hit during rush-hour Tuesday.

As many as 253 motorists were feared dead in the wreckage, but rescuers said a World Series baseball game between the Oakland Athletics and the San Francisco Giants may have reduced the normally heavy rush-hour traffic.

Officials said people had left their places of work earlier than usual either to attend the game at San Francisco's Candlestick Park or to be home in front of television sets to watch it.

At least 18 bodies have been dug out of the highway rubble. There have been no survivors rescued since early Wednesday from any of the places in northern California hit by the earthquake.

An aftershock estimated at 5.4 on the Richter scale knocked down several damaged buildings Thursday evening in Santa Cruz, near the epicentre of Tuesday's earthquake.

Electricity was restored to about 98 per cent of the area by Thursday, utility spokesman Greg Pruett said. Commuters returned to much of downtown San Francisco, some schools and bank branches reopened, and cable car service resumed.

But life was far from normal.

In downtown Oakland, the quake ruined 13 commercial buildings and 1,400 residential units, including housing for 100 elderly residents now staying in shelters, officials said. More than 200 other buildings were damaged.

UNRWA locked in row with Israel over Gaza raids

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The U.N. agency that coordinates aid for Palestinian refugees and Israel were embroiled in a row over Israeli army raids on the agency's main food distribution centre and three other offices in the occupied territories.

Unknown assailants in the occupied territories killed two Palestinians and seriously beat another Friday, the Israeli army and hospital staff said.

In the West Bank city of Nablus an Arab suspected of working with Israel was found stabbed to death in the old marketplace, the army said.

Local residents said masked assailants kidnapped Tahir Abu Saleh, 24, Thursday, stabbed him and left his body in a peddler's cart.

Palestinians severely heat Zidan Muhammad Nejem, 39, in Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp, hospital staff said. Local residents said Nejem was a suspected collaborator.

The U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said in a statement issued at its headquarters in Vienna, Austria, that protests were filed with the Israeli mission to the United Nations in

Vienna and with Israeli military officials in the occupied territories.

In the raids Wednesday, Israeli troops detained UNRWA workers and confiscated documents at the main food distribution centre in the Gaza's Deir Al Balah camp and at service offices in the West Bank refugee camp of Dheisheh, Fawwar and Jalazoun.

The UNRWA statement accused the soldiers of having "roughed up and detained" two international staffers and of detaining four Arab workers. All were freed late Wednesday or Thursday.

"UNRWA has discussed with Israeli authorities the serious breaches of privileges and immunities which the agency enjoys as an international body providing humanitarian services," the statement said.

The United States said Thursday it disapproved of attempts to interfere with United Nations relief and welfare agencies in the occupied territories.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Washington had received accounts of the raids from UNRWA sources and saw no reason not to believe them.

"We regret any actions that interfere with the U.N. Relief and Works Agency's important humanitarian operations in providing education, medical and relief services to Palestinian refugees," she said.

"We have called on all parties to exercise maximum restraint to avoid the kinds of confrontations described in these reports," she added.

Israeli police in the West Bank town of Hebron interrogated a Palestinian, formerly regarded as an ally of Israel, who last month met Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat in Tunis.

Israeli sources said police questioned West Bank village leagues head Jamil Al Amleh and were expected to charge him with meeting "hostile elements."

Former leagues head Mustapha Dobin, also at the Tunis meeting with Arafat, was likely to face the same charge, the sources said.

Israel is considering building another prison in the occupied West Bank to hold Arahah arrested during the uprising, an army spokesman said.

Sharif Zeid receives message from Baker

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has received a message from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker dealing with the American administration's position vis-a-vis peace efforts in the Middle East, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said. The message, delivered Thursday, also included a thorough evaluation of the available peace opportunities and obstacles in peace efforts, Petra said.

The message was delivered by American Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth.

Baker voiced in his message the American administration's interest in pursuing efforts with all parties to the conflict to reach at a formula capable of pushing the peace process forward, according to Petra.

Aoun pressures MPs, Saud presses mediation

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Army chief Michel Aoun stepped out of his pressure on Christian deputies over a peace plan for Lebanon as an Arab mediator held marathon talks in Damascus Friday to find a way out of the crisis.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal met Syrian leaders to seek guarantees on a timetable for a Syrian military withdrawal — the main stumbling block to agreement among Christian and Muslim deputies meeting for the past 20 days in Saudi Arabia.

Prospects that their talks might collapse heightened on Thursday after Aoun urged members of the parliament to return home from the Saudi town of Taif "to consult their people."

"There is no use in wasting time," said Aoun, who heads a military-led government competing for power with a civilian administration supported by Syria.

Aoun said he hoped the Taif meetings had persuaded deputies that there should be no negotiations under Syrian "military occupation" and no reforms to the political system while the estimated 33,000 Syrian soldiers remained.

But in Taif, there was no sign that any Christian deputy planned to leave and moderate parliamentary sources said they did not think Aoun's remarks would have a negative effect on their deliberations.

"Aoun's statement is part of the Lebanese political game and war of words between the conflicting parties," one deputy said.

Political sources told Reuters that Aoun had hardened his stand because he feared that the parliament would reach an agreement which did not comply with his demands.

One independent political

source said that, unlike Aoun, Christian deputies were ready to accept Arab guarantees on a Syrian withdrawal.

He said Aoun was under enormous international and regional pressure to accept the draft Arab plan under which Syria should pull its troops back to eastern Lebanon within two years of reforms being agreed and a united government formed.

In Damascus, Prince Saud said he was optimistic about saving the Taif talks.

Prince Saud refused to tell reporters whether his discussions in Damascus had resolved the stumbling block of Christian demands for political reforms to be linked to a Syrian guaranteed withdrawal from Lebanon.

"We had fruitful meetings here which we hope would create the appropriate climate and atmosphere to make the talks of the parliamentary brothers... success," the prince said.

Prince Saud flew to Damascus bearing a message from King Fahd in a bid to break the impasse.

Prince Saud, who had more than 10 hours of talks with President Hafez Al Assad and senior Syrians, said the Taif talks were crucial for Lebanon's future.

"Everybody is making efforts and initiatives to make the mission of the parliament brothers in Taif a success because these talks are very important to save Lebanon," he said.

The prince is to brief King Fahd in Saudi Arabia on his talks before resuming discussions with the Lebanese deputies.

Diplomats said that Syria was expected to reiterate its full support to the efforts of the tripartite Arab committee to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

'PLO will not allow any dilution of its central role'

By Mariam M. Shabin
 Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) must and will play a central role in any Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and the PLO leadership's move to spur recent American proposals was aimed at reaffirming that the PLO's agreement to allow other parties to attempt to initiate a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue was not tantamount to a dilution of its central role, according to a top PLO official.

"If, by showing a willingness to allow for participation by Arab and non-Arab parties in attempts to initiate a top-level Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, the PLO has given anyone the impression that it is anything but the spokesman for the Palestinians, then I believe the impression has been eliminated and PLO stand has been clarified in Baghdad," said the PLO official, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of

anonymity.

The Palestine Central Council (PCC), the 108-member policy making body of the PLO, concluded a two-day meeting in Baghdad Monday stressing that the PLO was the only Palestinian partner with Israel in any peace negotiations and implying a rejection of an American proposal to help arrange Israeli-Palestinian talks.

The PCC declaration followed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposal to hold Palestinian elections in the occupied territories, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's 10 clarification points on the Shamir proposal and a five-point plan by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, none of which have won PLO approval.

None of the plans mentioned the PLO by name, a prime reason why the PCC did not back it, said the PLO official in Amman.

Although the Baker plan did not mention the PLO, Shamir

spoke out against it "because of what he saw as growing attempts by the U.S. government to get Israel to sit at the negotiations table with the PLO," goes the official Israeli version.

A well-informed source said: "It's not only the Baker proposals that actually deny the PLO a participating role in a dialogue and in the choosing of participants in Israeli-Palestinian talks. There have been many 'clear' messages that the Americans have been sending the PLO saying 'yes, our plan is just a modified version of the Shamir plan; take it or leave it'."

Shamir's rejection of any PLO participation in an Egyptian-proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, which would be a preliminary step to elections in the occupied territories, was supported by a "memorandum of understanding" which the Bush administration has offered to prepare, covering Shamir's main objections to

Baker's five-point plan, according to the Jerusalem Post. PLO involvement would be ruled out and preliminary talks would be restricted to the Shamir plan, according to the Post.

"For how long does the U.S. government want to ignore that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people? When Americans completely omit any mention of PLO representation in any Palestinian-Israeli peace talks they are omitting the participation of the legitimate and popular representatives of one of the two concerned parties. Thus, practically, a legitimate, feasible peace proposal is non-existent," said the PLO official who spoke to the Jordan Times.

The PCC statement issued in Baghdad said that the Baker proposals were only a variation of the Israeli plan and just another attempt aimed at choosing non-PLO representatives to participate in a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Shamir has been quoted as

saying: "Our 'peace' initiative is, for the Arabs, an alternative to the PLO — not an adjunct to the PLO." He said he was not prepared to talk to the PLO although it had "influence" among people in the occupied territories, because "the PLO wants a Palestinian state, and they do not want a Jewish state, even though they proclaim otherwise..."

The PLO has publicly accepted U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, thus recognising the right of Israel to exist.

The PLO official confirmed the organisation's willingness to cooperate with Egyptian, American, Swedish and U.N. as well as Israeli peace-seekers. U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said after the PCC meeting that Baker would continue working with Israeli and Egyptian officials to get peace negotiations started, but she made no mention of the PLO.

"If we are ever to get the process off the ground, Palesti-

nians are going to have to find a way to respond positively," she said.

After a conversation held earlier this week between Bush and Shamir an apparent agreement was made to put a hold on American efforts until Shamir visits the U.S. in mid-November.

The PLO official in Amman said: "All I can do is repeat the PLO and the PLO alone has the right to name the Palestinian delegates to any talks with Israel, whether they be Palestinians inside the occupied territories or outside."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said Thursday at a meeting of Cairo's American Chamber of Commerce that "Shamir will have to leave the West Bank and Gaza. Definitely, we are working on that today." He added that Israel would have no choice but to trade land for peace if it wanted stability in the region.

Sudan peace panel suggests federal system

KHARTOUM (AP) — The government's peace committee has recommended that a federal system of rule be adopted in Sudan with each state free to choose Islamic or secular legislation, the head of the committee said Thursday.

Colonel Mohammed Al Amin Khalifa, chairman of the committee, said the recommendations would be presented to Sudan's military strongman, Omar Hassan Bashir, Saturday.

Bashir had pledged to commit the government to the recommendations of the committee and to present them in any future negotiations with the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Organisation (SPLA).

The abolishment of the strict Islamic laws is one of the Christian and animist rebels' main demands and it was not immediately known if they would be willing to compromise for a federal system.

Muslim fundamentalists inside and outside the government were expected to refuse the federal system as well.

Brigadier Dominic Cassiano told the Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) that 50 leaders from the southern Equatoria region had submitted a memorandum to Bashir, saying that the government must choose a federal government or Equatoria would seek "separation" from the Sudan.

This seemed to reflect southerners' impatience with the government's inability to end the civil war. But the rebels have always been careful to point out that they want more autonomy and economic reforms for the south but that they do not seek secession.

Most of Sudan's 22 million inhabitants are Muslim except for six million in the south who are Christian or animist. The rebellion started in the south in 1983.

Khalifa said that the 103-member peace committee, which was formed Sept. 9, had endorsed its final report Thursday and would submit it to Bashir Saturday which also coincides with celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the October civilian uprising which toppled the military regime of Ibrahim Aboud.

At the end of the committee's closing session, journalists saw emerging members jubilantly shaking hands and congratulating each other on their recommendations. The members included academics, specialists in the southern Sudan problem, representatives of leading trade unions and the disbanded political parties.

Bashir overthrew the civilian government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi June 30. He held one round of talks with the rebels and both sides admit they have found little common ground on which to base a settlement for the problem.

A unilateral ceasefire has been effective since last April and it has been violated by only a few incidents.

Brig. Cassiano told the SUNA that there was an "incident" recently in which 23 persons were killed but he refused to give any details.

Reports said that four days ago, a convoy of trucks with a military escort were attacked by unidentified armed men in the southern Equatoria region, resulting in the death of 23 persons

on the convoy. There are armed southern and Arab bandits which roam the southern countryside, belonging neither to the army nor the rebels.

Cassiano admitted that the army had moved some arms to Juba, the partly besieged capital of the southern Equatoria region. But he denied a report by the British Broadcasting Corporation that the operation had involved "big quantities of arms."

"It is the duty of the army to protect the people and their properties in the Equatoria region," Cassiano told SUNA. "There is no contradiction between the government's quest for peace and its move to protect citizens and arm its troops."

Three members of the state council of Sudan's ousted civilian government have been freed from detention cells they've been in since a military coup June 30, a junta spokesman said Thursday.

Only one of the three, southerner Pacifico Lado Loleik, had been charged, and a military court acquitted him last month of hoarding medicines and other goods.

In the civilian regime headed by Mahdi, the state council acted as a collective presidency but had no power.

Four of its five members were arrested along with Mahdi and dozens of other politicians after Bashir banned political parties and trade unions after his coup.

Former council members released with Loleik are Ali Hassan Tajeddin, a member of Mahdi's Umma Party, and Mirghani Al Nasry, an independent.



Israeli soldiers surround a car in Deir Al Balah Wednesday

Beit Sahour defiant despite starvation threat

By Jonathan Karp Reuters

BETHLEHEM, occupied West Bank — Under army siege for a month, defiant Palestinians in the West Bank town of Beit Sahour said in a smuggled message that Israel had cut off food supplies, stripped homes, and beaten and humiliated residents.

And as residents Thursday vowed to continue the defiance and not to finance "the bullets that kill our children" the army warned the 12,000 mainly Christian residents to end their refusal to pay Israeli taxes or to "go hungry."

Troops battling a boycott of Israeli taxes by Beit Sahour people have closed the town to outsiders since Sept. 20. They have confiscated goods worth \$1.3 million, including household appliances, machinery and 23 cars, military sources said.

In a statement smuggled to Israeli peace activists, the residents said: "No new food supplies reach us. We are under economic siege."

"The confiscation which has reached 120 shops, factories and houses is accompanied by beatings, humiliation, looting and damage to the goods."

Written in English, the statement said: "The repression against our town is reaching every person, destroying property and sources of income. It is ruining all aspects of economic activity in Beit Sahour."

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin vowed in parliament last week to crush the boycott and "teach residents a lesson."

On Thursday, the army distributed an Arabic leaflet which warned: "Don't believe what various parties are promising you in financial compensations, for you alone will pay the price and go hungry."

Starting next week, the army plans to issue tenders to sell the goods of five big Beit Sahour merchants who failed to meet the deadline for redeeming their confiscated property by paying their taxes, sources said.

But residents said they would continue the campaign of civil disobedience, their contribution to the 22-month-old Palestinian uprising.

"We will not finance the bullets that kill our children, the growing number of prisons, the expenses of the occupying army, the luxuries and weapons provided to (Arab) collaborators," the statement said.

The peace activists held a roadside protest at the Bethlehem checkpoint, holding placards expressing support for Beit Sahour and the principle of no taxation without representation.

"I'm prepared to support the non-violent side of the uprising," protester Dalia Landan said.

"Beit Sahour is taking a courageous approach that is in many ways more threatening to Israel than throwing stones."

The Beit Sahour statement urged Israelis to accept Palestinians' right to self-determination, saying: "The military authorities do not represent us and we do not invite them to come to our land."

It added: "We want no more than what you have — freedom and our own representatives to pay taxes to."

Rockets pound Kabul, 12 killed, 35 wounded

KABUL (AP) — Rockets slammed into the Kabul airport, halting civilian flights Thursday amid reports the Soviet Union was undertaking its largest airlift since its military withdrawal eight months ago.

The government of President Najibullah said shelling elsewhere in the capital killed 12 people and wounded 35, though two doctors at a hospital that monitors casualties said they did not know of any victims.

The U.S.-backed guerrillas also shelled a strategic town near the Pakistan border, killing nine people, the government said.

Diplomatic sources in Kabul and Islamabad, Pakistan, said the Soviet airlift was that country's largest since February, when Soviet troops ended their nine-year intervention in Afghanistan.

Diplomats in Kabul said Soviet-built Antonov-12 transport planes were flying continuously into the airport, dropping off weapons and food for soldiers. They said the planes were also flying night missions.

Two soldiers said all commercial traffic was shut down for most of the afternoon but Soviet transport planes were operating despite the shelling. Witnesses said at least five rockets hit the airport grounds, but there were no immediate casualty or damage reports there.

An Asian diplomat said the airlift, expected to continue into next week, demonstrated the Kremlin's commitment to Najibullah's government.

"Many people underestimated their resolve after they picked up and left," he said. "But they cannot afford to lose Afghanistan, especially with all their problems in Eastern Europe."

Guerrillas have been firing rockets and artillery from the mountains surrounding Khost, said government spokesman Mohammad Nahi Amani.

"Areas of Khost were heavily shelled resulting in the deaths of six servicemen and three civilians," Amani said.

The spokesman said the Afghan air force attacked the positions and killed or wounded hundreds of guerrillas. He did not specify when the fighting occurred.

Khost is 160 kilometres south-east of the capital and about 100 kilometres west of the border with Pakistan, where most of the guerrillas are based.

Western diplomats in Pakistan have said guerrilla forces were advancing on Khost and that the government was trying to reinforce it by air. Amani said the town was being supplied but refused to say whether a convoy of 200 trucks that left Kabul one week ago had arrived in Khost.

Guerrilla sources earlier said the convoy marked the government's first attempt to supply Khost by land since Jan. 18, 1988.

Guerrilla forces have been trying since this summer to take Khost. The offensive follows the guerrillas' failure to take Jalalabad, another eastern city about 70 kilometres from the Pakistani border and 120 kilometres from the capital.

Two Asian diplomats said the guerrillas apparently switched their target to Khost, which is farther from the capital and closer to Pakistan, thus more easily supplied.

During the day Thursday, sounds of outgoing missiles echoed throughout the Kabul. Several soldiers said some of the



Najibullah

rockets had been misfiring and exploding over the city.

Incoming missiles that hit several parts of the capital kicked up huge clouds of dust when viewed from a hill outside town.

Among the dead were a teacher, his wife and child killed together when a missile landed on their house in Kabul's old city. All the dead were civilians and 35 others were injured, Amani said.

The rockets, fired from the mountainous Paghman region 30 kilometres west of the city, were the first to hit Kabul for eight days.

By official count, nearly eight hundred Kabul residents have been killed by 1,400 rebel rockets fired at the city since the withdrawal of Soviet troops in February.

Libya said to increase military aid to Somalia

WASHINGTON (AP) — Libya has secretly escalated its weapons supplies to Somalia to replace dwindling U.S. aid, but the recent arrival of arms and Libyan officers to the port of Mogadishu was witnessed by the American ambassador, according to sources.

The Somali government, headed by President Siad Barre, has become increasingly desperate to obtain military hardware in the face of growing challenges from rebels in various parts of the country.

Barre turned to Libya's leader Muammar Qaddafi last year but information from Somali opposition groups about the Libyan deliveries has been hard to verify.

"Libya is increasing its assistance to the Somali government. To our knowledge, this includes military hardware, but no troops or military advisers," said a recent State Department statement.

But other sources, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, said a Libyan ship which docked in Mogadishu recently discharged 18 Libyan officers, including six pilots. The ship also carried 10 tanks and 10 long-range Soviet-made cannons, they said.

The ship's docking was witnessed by Barre himself, as well as by U.S. Ambassador Frank Crigler, said the sources.

A State Department official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that a Libyan ship had docked in Mogadishu but declined to discuss other details.

He said the Libyan aid was "not massive," and included rifles and ammunition. "But the fact that it's Libyan is disconcerting," he added.

Disgruntled Somali groups claim Libya has also supplied the Barre government with chemical weapons, especially mustard gas, but sources in the intelligence community say there are conflicting views about the veracity of the reports.

Qaddafi reportedly plans a visit to Somalia Oct. 21.

Somalia, which shifted its alliance from the Soviet Union to the West in 1977, has also been buying arms on the open market although it is experiencing a cash problem because of its heavy foreign debt.

Congress earlier this year turned down an administration request to approve \$21 million so Somalia could pay arrears to the International Monetary Fund and become eligible for additional loans. The administration decided not to press the request, saying it could not make a convincing case in light of growing human rights abuses in Somalia.

Algerian party forms own militia

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian Muslim fundamentalists in an unprecedented move have set up their own security force to pursue people who steal in the name of Islam, the newspaper of the Islamic Salvation Front said.

The report in the bimonthly paper Al Munqath (the Saviour) was the first announcement by the front, known by its French initials FIS, that it had set up its own security force.

The move has no precedent in Algeria's fledgling multi-party democracy and its legality was immediately questioned by the state-controlled media.

The front, was legalised last month as part of moves toward multi-party democracy. Political observers say it has quickly become one of the strongest of Algeria's new opposition parties.

Al Munqath said the FIS guard had arrested a 16-year-old after he posed as a student of a prominent FIS imam, Hachemi Sahmouni, and collected money in several Algerian cities on his behalf.

"The guard of the Islamic Salvation Front has arrested a dangerous thief... who invented a unique way of pilfering the money of Muslims," the paper said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestine opens embassy in Indonesia

JAKARTA (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has opened an embassy in Indonesia, which has recognised the Palestinian state since Nov. 16, 1988, the day after it was declared. PLO official Farouq Kaddoumi has said Palestine now had ambassadorial relations with 89 countries, and was recognised by a further 15.

Chad says French troops will leave

BRUSSELS (R) — Chadian President Hissene Habre said Thursday French troops would leave Chad once there was no further threat of attack from Libya. "When the factors which justified this presence have disappeared there will no longer be any reason for foreign military forces to remain in our country," he told a news conference. Habre said important steps had been taken towards resolving differences between Chad and Libya. "It will take a lot of time and work for us to overcome all the obstacles but... things are continuing along the right track," he said, speaking after two days of talks with European Community (EC) and Belgian government officials.

Greek court rejects suspect's plea

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — An appeals court council Thursday turned down a request for a Palestinian's temporary release from prison, leaving the matter to the government which will decide whether the man should be extradited to the United States. The three-member council that rules on requests for the temporary release of people held in pretrial custody said that it had no jurisdiction over the matter as Mohammed Rashid's extradition was in the hands of the justice minister. Rashid, 39, has been held by Greece since his arrest in May 1988. The supreme court upheld a U.S. request for his extradition last May but the final decision rests with the justice minister. The Greek government put the matter on hold after the June elections when the country was ruled by a conservative-communist coalition. The present caretaker government has a mandate only to lead the nation to elections on Nov. 5 and will not make any foreign policy decisions, such as one on Rashid's extradition. The Palestinian is accused of planting a bomb on a Pan Am Jumbo Jet in 1982. A Japanese was killed and 15 other people injured in the blast over Hawaii.

Ortega winds up Gulf visits

BAHRAIN (AP) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega left Bahrain Thursday winding up a tour of Arab countries which he said focused on economic support for his country and on means of pushing the peace process between Iran and Iraq. Ortega held extensive talks with the emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa during the visit which started Tuesday. Earlier he visited Kuwait and Qatar. Ortega told the Gulf News Agency before leaving that he agreed with the prime minister "to work together on all levels... for a comprehensive settlement and a final end to the deadlock" in the peace talks between Iran and Iraq.

Saudi deal questioned in U.S. house

WASHINGTON (AP) — Several members of the U.S. House of Representatives Thursday questioned the U.S. government's 3-billion sale of 315 tanks and other equipment to Saudi Arabia. In a letter to Secretary of State James Baker, the 29 house members, including majority leader Richard Gephardt, asked if the purchase was in the U.S. strategic interest. They also asked what armour would be included and where the tanks would be deployed. U.S. Congressman Melvin Levine, a Democrat, questioned in an accompanying letter whether the administration of President George Bush had conducted sufficient consultation with Congress. "In light of the fact that the Saudis have received over \$30 billion worth of military goods and services in the past eight years from the U.S.," Levine wrote, "I am troubled that they still have yet to meet many basic U.S. policy objectives in the Middle East. In particular, their performance on the peace process has been abysmal. Their vote just two days ago to deny Israel's credentials at the U.N. underscores that the Saudis continue to cast their lot with the most radical and rejectionist Arab countries." The purchase will go through unless it is rejected by majority vote of both the Senate and the house.

Maghreb Consultative Council opened

RABAT (AP) — King Hassan II of Morocco inaugurated the first session Thursday of the 50-member Arab Maghreb Union Consultative Council, comprising 10 members of parliament each from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania. The delegates will elect officers and review the work of the Arab Maghreb Union since the leaders of the five countries established it last February in Marrakech. The union aims ultimately at setting up a common market of 100 million people. Hassan said he would like to increase the number of council members but did not specify a figure. He said the consultative role of the council will be "taken into consideration" by the five chiefs of state at future summit meetings. Morocco will relinquish the chairmanship of the federation to Tunisia at the end of the year.

Britain protests over Iraqi detainees

LONDON (AP) — The Foreign Office said Thursday it has protested for the second time to Iraq the continued detention of a British nurse and a journalist held for over a month without consular access. Iraqi officials say they are investigating alleged acts of espionage by Daphne Parish, 41, and Iranian-born Farzad Bazof, who works for The Observer, a leading British weekly newspaper. The Foreign Office said Iraqi Ambassador Azmi Shafiq Al Salhi was summoned Thursday and was told by Undersecretary William Waldegrave that despite many requests by government ministers, editors and relatives, no access had been given. Bazof was arrested Sept. 15 and Mrs. Parish four days later. "Under the provisions of the Vienna convention on consular relations, we are entitled to exercise our right of access to a British subject without delay," a ministry spokesman said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary
18:05 Message from Iraq
18:25 A play by Shakespeare
19:10 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Consumer's Guide
22:25 Local programme
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:40 Agnes Et Loups
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Natural Phenomena
20:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Saturday Variety show
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Code name: Dancer"

PRAYER TIMES

04:21 Fair
05:39 (Sunrise) Datta
11:20 Dauter

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De in Sella Church Tel. 661757

Terzanna Church Tel. 623636

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 65-4932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will continue cold and partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

thunder showers and the effect of the cold front will decrease gradually. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with a possibility of scattered showers and winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./max. temp. 9/18

Aqaba 17/22

Deserts 9/22

Jordan Valley 14/23

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings: Amman 70 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hanna Mansour 740733

Dr. Jamal Abu Bakr 746426

Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 891256

Dr. Abdul Rahman Jabr 770500

Fewkes pharmacy 661912

Fewkes pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637023

Natroukh pharmacy 626272

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamsani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Bakhtawi (-)

Al Sharaf pharmacy (985236)

ZARQA:

Dr. Yusuf Abu Sa'ad (-)

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630941

Rescue 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 77121

Highway Police 943402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 63021

Hotel Complaints 620800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Repairs 661101

Abdell Telephone Repairs 775111

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 690100

Jordan Electricity Authority 812615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-32300

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 812813/2

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816

Abdell Maternity, J. Amn. 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362</

ELECTIONS '89

By Nermeen Murad

IN A small tent at the entrance of Madaba refugee camp, about 200 women from all walks of life listened to a candidate speaking without a microphone. They were asking and he was answering but what stood out was the awareness among the rural women and the sensitivity of the questions they posed. One woman told the candidate that her brother died because of "medical malpractice".

"My brother was given a shot of distilled water instead of sedatives at Madaba hospital and the culprit has admitted his guilt and is being held at the police station," she said. "What will you do for the many victims of such malpractice?" she asked.

Another voter quoted a phrase from the candidate's election campaign calling for abandoning Jordan's agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). What was the alternative, the candidate was asked. A woman asked the candidate what would he do if the new Lower House of Parliament was dissolved. The candidate spoke loudly and with determination: "I would go back to the people, the source of authorities." All the women clapped, they crowded to shake his hand and ask him when can he meet with their friends and relatives to tell them of his ideas and plans for the people.

A "refined" woman among the crowd approached reporters and distributed election campaign cards for a rival candidate and then suggested that they meet him.

The reporters drove through the small streets of Madaba until they reached a building. Inside was a large white hall reserved for the candidate and his supporters.

There were no excited crowds. A picture of the candidate loomed large on a wall in the room. Chairs were filed side by side forming medium sized squares in the room.

The candidate had held a prominent public office in the government and resigned to put his credibility to the test with his constituency. His ideas were new, innovative; yet the question loomed large, "Why no one asked for these things while in office?"

The candidate said that although he was widely seen as a capitalist, "I feel compassion for the poor and the needy," and although he was associated, in the minds of many voters, with right-wing thinking, "I feel pity for the leftists; many of them are my friends."

As the reporters headed back to Amman, they thought of the woman whose brother died because a registered nurse at Madaba Hospital allegedly stole sedatives from the hospital. They also thought of a man who was able to get through to 200 women without a microphone. But, for one reason or another, only the shapes of the squares of chairs in the lounge in which they met the second candidate stood out in the minds of the reporters.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

REGENT, PRINCE MOHAMMAD CONGRATULATE SOMALIA: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday sent a cable of congratulations to the Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre, congratulating him in his own name, and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government, on Somalia's National Day. His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad also wished President Barre continued good health and happiness and the Somali people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

PRINCESS BASMA RECEIVES JFPPA TEAM: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Friday received the Jordan Family Planning and Protection Association (JFPPA) administrative committee chairman and members. She was briefed on the JFPPA services to the public and activities in the fields of mother and child care and family planning. Princess Basma also accepted the offer to become the honorary president of the JFPPA. (Petra)

CHINESE LEADER RECEIVES TARAWNEH: The Chinese vice-president Thursday received Director General of the Civil Defence Department Lt.-General Khalid Al Tarawneh and discussed with him means of enhancing bilateral cooperation in the field of civil defence. Tarawneh's visit to Peking is designed to exchange views on emergency relief and first aid operations in times of natural disasters. (Petra)

ART EXHIBITION: Ministry of Culture Secretary General Hani Al Amad Thursday opened a week-long plastic art exhibition by the artist, Basma Batouli, held at Alia Art Gallery. On display at the exhibition are 48 paintings depicting the nature in Jordan. (Petra)

IRAQI AWQAF AIDE ENDS VISIT: Iraqi Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Undersecretary Mohammad Sharif Thursday left Amman at the conclusion of a several day visit to Jordan. During his visit, he met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and held talks with senior officials at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs on means to exchange expertise between Jordan and Iraq in Islamic affairs. He was seen off by Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry Secretary General Dr. Ahmad Hlayyel, a number of senior officials, and the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan. (Petra)

U.S. envoy cites strong ties with Jordan

AMMAN (USIS) — Citing the "strength and durability" of relations between the United States and Jordan, Ambassador Roscoe Suddarth helped pour the last bucket of concrete on the roof of the tallest building in the new American embassy building complex in Amman Thursday.

The ceremony, called "topping-out," is the most important phase between the ground breaking and ribbon-cutting in a construction project.

The ceremony was held under the auspices of Amman Deputy Mayor Sultan Khuleifat and Ambassador Suddarth. Attending were Mr. Mustafa Bilbeisi, secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Salem Al Lawzi, Adviser at the Prime Ministry and a number of Jordanian officials from various government departments as well as the American and Jordanian employees of the embassy.

The project covers an area of 40 dunams with about 20,000 square metres of floor space. It will consist of seven buildings, including a chancery, a chancery annex, an ambassador's residence, and a warehouse facility. In addition, the American Cultural Centre and library and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will use this facility for their operations. The buildings are expected to be completed in early 1991.

The construction contract was awarded to American International Construction, Inc. of New York (formerly the George A. Fuller Company). Nearly all the work on this project has been done by Jordanian nationals. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$40 million.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Foad Mihal and 'Amr Khammash at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation's Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An Italian photo exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Discovered pictures in East Jerusalem" by American artist Eva Patz at the Goethe Institute — 5:00 p.m.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Qaddousi displaying oil and watercolour paintings depicting nature in Jordan, at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian plastic artist Basma Batouli at Alia Art Gallery.



Princess Basma attends celebration

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Thursday attended the celebration held by the Ministry of Education's boy scouts and girl guides section, in cooperation with the Greater Amman Education Department, to mark Prophet Muhammad's Birthday anniversary. Taking part in the celebration were 300 children from the various charitable societies throughout the Kingdom, including orphan and disabled children and martyrs' children, in addition to 200 boy scouts

and girl guides from the Education Ministry. The head of the sections, Abin Abu Nuwwar, addressed the celebration, voicing appreciation to Princess Basma for her continuous support of the scouting movement in Jordan. The celebration included religious sonnets, plays, singing competitions and recreational games for children. At the end of the celebration Princess Basma presented gifts to the participating students.

Five new departments expected to boost Justice Ministry efficiency

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet has endorsed the creation of five new departments at the Ministry of Justice in 1989, in what is seen as a bid to boost the efficiency of the ministry in administrative affairs. Justice Minister Rabea Al Wazani, in comments carried Friday by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the new departments — inspection, planning, studies and development, administration, and finance and a judicial institute — will pave the way for boosting the efficiency of the ministry's administrative staff and improving the performance of the

judicial system.

The creation of the planning, studies and development department will enhance the ministry's ability to draw up short- and long-term plans to develop the judicial and administrative systems, according to the minister. The inspection department will help facilitate supervisory activities and contribute to proposing proper solutions to administrative problems, since it implies the appointment of additional judges who will take up supervisory work in courts, the minister said. "The creation of this department was based on experiences acquired from other countries, as it was found out that such inspection departments have contributed to improving performance and speeding up settlements of cases presented to the courts," he said.

Wazani stressed the ministry's resolve to give this department a key role in view of its importance.

The director of the proposed judicial institute, Wazani said, will report directly to the minister. The institute will include three sections — administrative and financial, educational and a main office — he added.

Outgoing Japanese ambassador honoured

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has conferred the Independence Medal of the First Order upon Japanese Ambassador to Jordan, Makoto Watanabe, whose tour of duty in Jordan has ended.

Presenting the medal to Watanabe at a dinner hosted in his honour was Foreign Ministry Secretary General Mutaz Al Bilbeisi (see photo). The dinner was attended by a number of ambassadors accredited to Jordan.



Course prepares women for quality stitching, professionalism

AMMAN (USIS) — Nineteen women recently completed a four week training course for supervisors of sewing in the handicrafts and garment industry sponsored by the Near East Foundation and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The trainees are employed on income generating projects supported by several voluntary organizations including the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the Family Care Society, the Urban Development Department, Save the Children Federation, Jerash Ladies Benevolent Society, and the Hai Nazzal Social Development Centre.

According to course organizer and instructor, Debra Brummett, the course content addressed two major problem areas in women's sewing projects:

— Gaining the expertise to use the high quality technical equipment that most projects have but don't have the expertise to use, and

— Recognising and taking responsibility for quality throughout.

Ms. Brummett noted an as yet unmet need in the handicrafts and garment industries for highly trained professionals to make patterns and grade sizes. Brummett will follow up the training session by visiting the participating workshops to produce patterns and samples from which they can work.

The trainees learned sewing maintenance and operation. According to instructor, Mel Phillips, a retired vice president for Munsingwear, every person operating a sewing machine should be able to change the needle, adjust the tension, oil the machinery, and manage all the routine tasks associated with keeping the machine in good operating condition.

That, according to Phillips, is a matter of both learning to per-

form these simple tasks, and of taking responsibility for keeping the machine producing perfect stitches.

"When I see a bad stitch and a seamstress tells me the machine wasn't working right," said Brummett, "I ask who's responsibility is that?"

The costs of calling in maintenance personnel for routine tasks that could have been performed by properly trained and motivated sewers have made many sewing projects, particularly those in outlying areas, unprofitable.

The cost savings of careful pattern layout, fitting the pieces together, so as to minimize fabric waste prior to cutting were emphasized.

"If I just lay one piece on the fabric at a time, and cut it by itself, then lay another without really planning ahead," cautioned Phillips, "I might just as well throw these two dinar right out the window. I've wasted that much fabric."

Essentials of layout such as laying each pattern piece, including straps and ties, on the straight of the fabric were taught. Assembly of the product in proper sequence was taught. In addition to making a variety of sewing technique samples, students made an apron, a lady's shoulder bag, a man's shirt, and an infant's bib which reinforced the skills learned in the sample sessions.

Sewing techniques related to the handicrafts industry were

taught and practiced extensively. These included zippers, facings, buttons, bound edges, flat felled seams, under stitching, top stitching, cording, pockets, straps and pressing.

Other skills taught included using an industrial cutter, understanding spec sheets, and using templates for accurate pressing and sewing.

Uniformity and rigorous quality standards that are the responsibility of each sewer and enforced by the supervisor were stressed. Any product that was not sewn right in the training session was sewn over.

Finally, ideas for packaging the product for the consumer, for example by sewing in the workshop's special label, were demonstrated, and supervisors were taught how to give yardage information to their managers for costing.

Skill in costing products has been a particularly urgent need among the garment makers in Jordan, according to Phillips. The sales price for an item is determined by assessing the cost to produce the product plus some profit.

In the handicrafts industry, for example, the cost is determined by the cost of materials, plus the cost of direct labour, plus an overhead cost expressed as a percentage of direct labour.

This formula makes it easy to adjust the sales price for any item in any material even as raw materials costs change.

KEILANI TOURS WAJ WORKSHOPS: Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Saleh Keilani Friday toured a number of Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) workshops and discussed means to promote WAJ activities. (Petra)

MALHAS OPENS SALT CENTRE: Minister of Health and Social Development Dr. Zahair Malhas Thursday opened the new centre of Kahr Honda charitable society in Salt. The construction of this building cost JD 30,000. (Petra)

Moscow attaches major importance to ties with Jordan — Latvian leader

By Suhair Obaidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Soviet Union attaches major importance to its relations with Jordan and sees Moscow's links with Amman very significant in Soviet-Arab relations since both countries share common views on many subjects, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to the Deputy Prime Minister of Latvia, one of the 15 Soviet republics.

In this context, the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society plays a distinctive role, and regardless of the fact that Jordan is relatively a small country in the region, the society is one of the best developed among Soviet-Arab friendship societies, said Cepanis K. Alfreds, who is currently on a visit to Jordan.

"We can stress the importance of the Soviet-Jordanian relation, overlooking the matter of size and international economic weight, because it (the relation), is built on bases of mutual respect and equality," Alfreds told the Jordan Times in an interview.

Alfreds, who was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince, the Regent, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and other senior officials and who attended celebrations in connection with a Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Week, said his visit to Amman also aimed at signing agreements related to Jordanian exports to Latvia.

"My mission as a deputy prime minister is limited to developing economic and trade relations with outside countries," he said, adding, "We are going to do so through the ports in Aqaba and Latvia and the Baltics. Jordan is going to export to us phosphate and potash, and they are going to continue importing timber, minerals and other industrial materials," he said.

Alfreds, and his accompanying Latvian friendship delegation were chosen to represent the Soviet Union as part of a periodic selection process, where each republic gets its turn to represent the Soviet Union in Jordan, to introduce their costumes and traditions.

"What we know as a nation about Jordan, is very little, so this is one of the aims of the days of friendship. After we go back to Latvia, the delegation, each in his field, will hold lectures to talk about Jordan. The Latvian television, on its turn will run films about Jordan which were presented to us by the Ministry of Information."

The deputy prime minister will be hosted on the Latvian television on a live show, to talk about his visit to Jordan, where there would be four direct telephone lines for questions or inquiries on Jordan.

According to Alfreds, political horizons between Jordan and the Soviet Union are wide, since they are based on mutual agreement on a great number of issues and there is no reason for contradiction between the two countries.

Sighting examples of mutual and common understanding on a number of international issues, Alfreds said that both countries agree that the international conference is the best way to solve the Middle East issue, he said.

— In Afghanistan, Jordan welcomed the withdrawal of the Soviet army and agreed that a solution can be reached, through settlement between the rival Afghan forces.

— Jordan welcomed the initiative of nuclear disarmament.

— Jordan welcomed the openness between USSR and the United States.

— Both valued the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran and the Soviet efforts to stop this conflict was welcomed by Jordan.

— Both agree that relations between countries should be built on the basis of mutual interests.

— Both agree on the role of the United Nations, its policies, activities and the cases presented to it.

— The two countries agree on the issues of chemical weapons, protection of the environment and the debts of Third World countries and ways of resolving them. "Through rearranging international economic relations between the north and the south," he said.

Commenting on the waves of perestroika currently sweeping the Soviet Union in general, and Latvia in particular, Alfreds said that "the healthy Latvian forces, whether they are political, social or economic, all demand an economic independence, within the Soviet Union."

Yet he stressed that any step towards economic development

in the republic, would be connected to the USSR and not an outside country.

"This means that each republic handles all issues of developing its economy, depending on its natural resources and capabilities independently from the centre. Because it is more capable of knowing the best ways of proper economic investment," he said.

Consequently, this will please both the republic and Moscow since tight (extreme) centralisation in the past, led to decisions that did not take into consideration local circumstances. The results of the past (economic) decisions did not please the centre nor the republic.

However, there are political forces in Latvia that are demanding complete separation of Latvia from the centre. "I would like to stress that they are 'isolated' forces and do not have a wide effect on the Latvians."

"Our republic does not have any natural resources like gas and minerals, and the developed industries in Latvia depend on the raw materials coming from other republics. And if we want to be independent, other resources available in our country will not be enough to keep the industrial development that we reached."

On economic development, Alfreds said the best way in a country inhabited by 300 million people, with varied nationalities, is to take into consideration the ways and methods of thinking and the mentalities of each nation, to be able to take steps forward.

What applies to the Baltic republics does not necessarily apply to the Soviet republics in Central Asia or the Caucasus.

"So, there was a vote on economic independence, not on a full one and when the request was presented to and discussed in the Supreme Soviet in Moscow, it

was decided that starting Jan. 1, 1990, the three Baltic republics of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania as well as Belorussia, would be granted economic independence, which means that each republic would have full control over its natural resources and potentials."

According to Alfreds, the official institutions in Moscow and those in the republics, are heavily involved in setting the basis of economic independence and economic integration between each republic and Moscow.

"Our republic used to contribute \$1.6 billion to the country's budget and the ministries in Moscow used to define funds allocation. Now we are ready to continue paying our share on condition that other funds be exploited as we, and not Moscow, deem appropriate. This is one of the basic foundations of Communism," he said.

Accordingly, the Soviets want this principle to be applied on exchange of goods that is, each republic hold agreements with other republics and with the Moscow ministries, to exchange goods, which requires the setting of new laws and prices, "and this is in fact the essence of perestroika," he commented.

On Thursday, Information and Culture Minister Nasonah Al Majali received Alfreds and discussed with him means of developing cultural cooperation between Jordan and the Soviet Union, Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

They also discussed with him the roles of both the friendship societies in promoting cultural cooperation and holding cultural events, Petra said.

The Soviet delegation Thursday visited King Hussein Medical Centre where they were briefed by Director General of the National Medical Institution Daoud Hanania on the centre's achievements and the services it offers to the heart patients.

Also Thursday, Tourism Minister Yassir Hikmat opened an exhibition of children's drawings and puppet show, at Haya Art Centre prepared by children from Latvia.

The exhibition, held on the occasion of the Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Week, is organised by the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society in cooperation with Haya Art Centre.

Arab environment ministers adopt Jordanian proposal

CAIRO (Petra) — Arab ministers of municipal and rural affairs and the environment have decided to follow up on a Jordanian proposal to set up an environmental information centre.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jabr, who headed the Kingdom's delegation to the meetings, said Thursday that the ministers recognised the importance of the Jordanian proposal and decided to undertake a feasibility study and to explore potential sources for funding.

The ministers also called for setting up regional environmental centres which could serve as a nucleus for the proposed centre. The meeting also discussed other Jordanian proposals, including one to set up a pan-Arab environmental fund and a centre for environmental experts and to organise a pan-Arab conference on environment.

The conference also called on Arab countries which have not so far agreed to or ratified the Hague Declaration on protecting the atmosphere and preserving the ozone layer to do so as soon as possible. It also stressed the importance of intensifying Arab presence in international conferences on the environment.

Taking part in the meetings were representatives from all Arab countries.

Jabr said the ministers called on Arab funds to contribute towards projects designed to disseminate information about environment and to assist in desertification control projects. Participants further stressed the need for setting up a low-cost plant to produce water purification and waste water treatment equipment.

The conference also called on Arab countries which have not so far agreed to or ratified the Hague Declaration on protecting the atmosphere and preserving the ozone layer to do so as soon as possible. It also stressed the importance of intensifying Arab presence in international conferences on the environment.

Taking part in the symposium, which was organised by the Higher Council of Science and Technology, were Arab as well as foreign experts.

Symposium on diseases suggests Amman centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in a three-day regional symposium on diseases and parasites common to man and animals concluded a meeting here Friday with a call for setting up a scientific research centre and information network to be based in Amman.

Participants at the symposium, which was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, recommended that the symposium be held in Amman in 1991.

The gathering adopted a proposal for setting up an Arab re-

search centre which will be entrusted with undertaking research on diseases common to man and animals in the Arab World.

In concluding remarks, the symposium chairman, Dr. Omeish Omeish, praised the standard of the discussions and noted their importance in protecting the health of Arab citizens and environment.

Taking part in the symposium, which was organised by the Higher Council of Science and Technology, were Arab as well as foreign experts.

Jordan to take part in international tourism talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a six-day international conference on tourism which begins in Canada Oct. 29. Organised by school tourist clubs, the conference will be attended by representatives of school clubs of 65 countries.

The conference, held under the theme "tourism — a corridor for peace," will discuss different tourist issues, such as handling tourist groups and means of de-

veloping and promoting tourism in Third World countries. The head of the delegation, Sami Sali, left Friday to Vienna en route to Canada. In Vienna he will hold talks with Austrian officials on tourist relations between Jordan and Austria.

The Jordanian delegation to the conference will carry tourism leaflets and posters related to Jordan for dissemination during the conference.

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Noble or ignoble?

THERE is something seriously wrong with American thinking; not when it comes to discussing efforts for peace in the Middle East but when it comes to the means to achieve it, and the nature of an envisaged peace settlement. It is not in any way new, but it is becoming more and more pronounced these days. So, there is nothing really surprising to hear reports that Washington has offered to sign a "Memorandum of understanding" with Israel to rule out any Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) involvement in preliminary peace talks. No doubt, the American offer is timed to be seen as a pacifying gesture after the State Department criticised the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, for his open defiance of U.S. overtures towards realising the initial goal of launching direct Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. But, can it throw a curtain over the emerging scenario where neither the U.S. nor Israel has any intention to include the PLO in any talks, preliminary or otherwise.

For all technical purposes, the U.S., having chided Shamir for saying that he was willing to take on Washington, or any other party for that matter, in his opposition to contacts with the PLO, is now offering an olive branch to the Israeli leader as an essential element in pushing the peace process.

But, for practical purposes, what does the American offer, if indeed it is true that there is one, indicate? That Palestinians who do not have any links whatsoever with the PLO will be involved in "preliminary talks" and, who knows, can also assume the role of "final negotiators." So, technically or otherwise, it is aimed at cutting out the PLO from its central role in the peace process.

Obviously, there is little significance that the U.S. attaches to its ongoing dialogue with the PLO in Tunis, except that it is a channel to "explain" American moves to the Palestinian leadership, of course, always with a suggestion that the PLO makes no big fuss about whatever Washington does since everything is aimed at serving the noble purpose of achieving a just and durable solution to the Palestinian problem. But, aren't we hearing the rumblings of a "take-it-or-leave-it" coming from Washington to the PLO? It is bound to happen in public soon, and then where does it leave the Palestinians, who have acknowledged the PLO as their sole legitimate representative, in their quest to regain their national rights on their soil when it is clear that the fundamental aim of the American-Israeli exercise and carefully-enacted dramas is to cut out any exchange of land for peace?

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday launched an attack on the United States stand with regard to the Middle East situation and said that Washington continues to provide arms and funds to the Jewish state and gives empty promises to the Arabs. The paper said that Shamir's recent rejection of the Egyptian peace plan and his refusal to hold talks with the PLO represent a clear picture of Israel's intransigence and its hostile attitude towards peace. It should be noted that the United States' policies have been instrumental in boosting the intransigent stand of Israel and its refusal of all peace bids, and unless the United States stops its supply of arms and funds to Israel, it cannot expect Tel Aviv to respond favourably to any peace bid; and Washington's criticism of Shamir's position cannot absolve the United States from its responsibility for the present situation, the paper continued. Unless Washington takes practical steps to bring about a real change in the Israeli position, there can be no way for achieving peace no matter what excuse American statesmen present to the world, the paper added. The paper warned that the present situation is bound to deepen the feeling of despair which could bring about adverse effects not only to the current developments but also with regard to the whole concept of peace.

Washington's confused policies in the Middle East region is the theme of an article by a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday. Mahmud Rimawi says that when faced with Israel's intransigence with regard to peace plans, the United States suddenly turns into a neutral state but when Shamir launches attacks on Washington for not doing enough for the Jewish state, the United States immediately announces its allegiance to Israel and world Zionism by succumbing to the Israeli leaders' demands, politically, financially and militarily. The recent instance, says the writer, is represented in Shamir's severe attack on the United States prior to his next month's visit to Washington. Shamir's attack is a form of pressure on the United States, designed to pave the way for an announcement by Washington of new forms of aid and further support for the Jewish state and its policies in the Middle East, the writer continues. Washington's inability to exercise any pressure on Tel Aviv to make it accept peace plans can only encourage Israel to pursue its atrocities against the Palestinians; and Washington's continued aid to Shamir and his government does not help the cause of peace, says the writer. Rimawi says that only a strong Palestinian unity and a solid stand on the part of the Arab Nation with regard to Palestinian rights can stand up to the American policies in our region.

Al Dastour daily commented on King Hussein's lecture at Oxford University in England in which he dwelt on the situation in the Middle East and criticised Israel's continued intransigence. The paper particularly referred to the King's warning of Israel's continued drive to stockpile nuclear weapons while the world is trying to defuse tension everywhere and while the superpowers are trying to dispose of their nuclear arsenals in a bid to pave the way for world peace. The paper referred to the King's emphasis on the need for the world community to listen to the call of peace by the PLO, and the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, and said that the more Israel shows intransigence the more complicated the situation in the Middle East can become.

Israel-South Africa

The strategic alliance

The following is a speech made by Denis Goldberg at a CAABU (Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding) seminar held early this year in London. Goldberg was born and educated in South Africa. In 1964 he was convicted in the Rivonia Treason Trial and spent the next 22 years in South African prisons until his release in 1986. He now lives in England and works with the African National Congress.

By Denis Goldberg

A strategic alliance

THE OFFICIAL title is "Israel and South Africa: A Strategic Alliance" and I'm simply going to assert that the alliance exists — there's sufficient evidence which has built up over the years. We used to speculate about it and the Israeli regime would call us liars and would say we had overheated imaginations. Prove it! they would say. I came out of prison and they said Goldberg has not been around for twenty-two years how can he possibly know these things. And of course we continued to assert them. Until in March 1987, in response to U.S. congressional legislation, the Israeli government said "we have an alliance, we have had contacts for years, of course we are going to scale them down." They didn't tell us they have an overriding agreement which has no time limit, under which all the other agreements fall. So they are going to scale them down and not renew them when they don't need renewing. But we are the liars, we are the ones with overheated imaginations.

Let's we forget

We do not forget, we shall not forget, this is the subtle. Let's we forget, we are told we must remember the murder of 6 million Jews and indeed we must. We are not told we must remember the murder of at least another six million people in the Nazi war.

We are not told that we must not forget the principles established at the Nuremberg trials and which include the principles that it is not an excuse to say the security of my state was involved, it is not an excuse to say that a higher authority gave me an order and therefore I was justified in perpetrating acts, crimes, against humanity. We remember; they have forgotten.

After all, these are people who can send their troops into the West Bank against an unarmed people rising up for their rights as human beings. Initially, television cameras were there and they didn't want to be seen shooting unarmed people, so they took the kids round the corner and broke their arms and legs. They didn't want to be seen shooting people so they buried them alive with bulldozers. Then they learnt from South Africa; they came to learn from each other these two allies, and they shut up the television crews and so now they shoot people every day and they say "but it is the security of our state." But we shall not forget. We dare not forget. I want to make one further point. It's not an original thought but I want to develop it. Today we see throughout the world as a result of economic crises and political difficulties, a rising tide of right-wing political influence — in France, in Austria, in Argentina and, I would say, in Britain and the United States fascists are on the march — and these people tell us we must never forget. The state of Israel itself actively assists right-wing fascist governments. It is helping to create the very climate in which people can be murdered on a massive scale, on the West Bank, in South Africa and in Namibia where returning guerrilla fighters are shot down because they are invading their own country. It's their country! And what do our media say? They elevate South Africa as the upholders of law and order. They uphold Israel as the upholders of law and order. Is the world standing on its head? Please, we must not forget.

I want to tell you a story about Govan Mbeki, who was sentenced with me. He served a bit longer in prison than I did, he was there for 24 years. He told me that in 1947 or 1948, he came across an illustrated volume on the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps. This black South African who has suffered all the consequences of institutionalised racism, said he read through this book (an African nationalist, he is also a communist, he is a revolutionary fighter for freedom in that country). He told me when we met in prison that having seen those pictures of what was found in the concentration camps, he could never be a racist, because that is what racism inevitably leads to what was found. In those camps when they were liberated. He is also a member of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress and I would say that is one of the reasons why the ANC has never been a racist organisation.

for the import of South African goods into the United States under Israeli labels). If we talk about diplomatic relationships, I always understood that tact was not to say it, diplomacy was to say it in a way which would be acceptable. But I am afraid in this case, one has to say that these two allies lie in harmony; they say they do not have military relations when they do.

At the time of the intifada South African military officers were in Israel. They don't even deny it, they say "well we just don't talk about it." Or they will say, "well, so what? Officers are always here," and at the time of the massacre of people in Angola by South African and UNITA forces, there were Israeli officers in Namibia, Angola and Mozambique. They say they don't operate together; they deny they operate together but they are murdering and killing people all over the world. And of course we can add the whole Iran-contra scandal with its South African pilots and cargo handlers and Israeli handling of money. Wherever there is dirty work to be done, these two countries are there.

I might mention, there is another aspect of South African-Israeli relations that is in the field of culture and sport. I mention this because of the U.N. cultural and sporting embargo on people going to South Africa. It gives aid and comfort to the enemies of the people and you will find that there are Israelis who will say that they don't have cultural and sporting ties with South Africa. When you say that South Africa's team is probably the biggest one there they say they are not South Africans, they are Jews. If you want to make lies, you can.

Ideological justification

But I want to come to another point altogether. We know all these facts and we know that the logic of the situation is such that Israel and South Africa — and perhaps we should add Chile and Taiwan and a couple of others — are going to be involved with each other. We have to ask why? We have to ask where does this racism come from, what's it about? After all, really we are born colour-blind; to be able to distinguish a colour and give it a meaning, is something we are taught, we have to learn it somewhere. Why are we taught it, what does it do?

Well I can see in South Africa, a system of racism written into the laws to the land so it's a legal system; it's a system of social practices, it's a system of economic denial and deprivation and it's also an ideological justification for it all. You set up the justification in advance. It says — we are superior, they are inferior; we feel, they do not. We must have our families together be-

A Light Unto the Nations (Res.)



cause we are superior sensitive things, they are migrant labourers who are not allowed to take their families with them when they move to the industries in the white cities. You see, they have no feelings, they leave their families behind — and it becomes a circular argument of self-justification for this kind of brutality.

And so we have a situation where a one-time minister of defence in the Israeli cabinet, Ariel Sharon, now the minister of trade and industry, can say that the present Israeli government has made a fatal error in relation to the intifada. The fatal error, according to him, is that they didn't simply send in the army and kill everybody and put down the uprising. That's the fatal error he talks about. Now you will say well, why pick on one politician when he is still in the cabinet, they don't kick him out. This is acceptable language, after all they are only Palestinian people, they are not Jewish Israelis. And if you say that they keep him in the cabinet because he has a constituency which supports him, this is precisely my point: that this ideology exists, and is propagated and supported in this country, in the United States, in West Germany in South Africa. It is important that we do not forget.

It is important that we remember, it's even more important that we act and it's not good enough for the British government to send a junior foreign minister, William Waldegrave, to go and walk around the West Bank and say this is terrible and come back and report on it and for the British government to do nothing.

Had it been Jewish Israelis who were being attacked we would have aircraft flying against Libya, perhaps we would even have parachutists dropping into Lebanon. Talking is not enough. When I talk about taking action I would like to recall to the Ambassador of Algeria that his country once hosted my leader, Nelson

Mandela. In 1961 when he visited that country, and was learning about armed struggle, they were a good example of a people who took up arms to free themselves. To put an end to the injustices and the inhumanity of colonial occupation. Nelson Mandela went there and he toured the camps and was given some basic training himself.

So we must remember also our own histories, all of us around the world. At the time when we are involved in armed struggles for freedom we uphold that armed struggle, later we tend to get caught up, inevitably (it is a process of history I suppose) in saying that maybe the regional conflict should be solved peacefully, maybe it causes problems to take up arms.

Now I want to say to you, I didn't recite this litany of "let's we forget" simply to say that the Israeli state is a bad state, evil. This seminar was called by CAABU, it's for the advancement of Arab-British understanding. Try to say that anything the Palestinians do to put an end to the crime against humanity, that the occupation of the territories amounts to, is justified — just as anything the people of South Africa do, or Namibia, to put an end to the oppression of apartheid is justified. To end this political overview, I want to talk about another strategic alliance between the same areas, between Palestine and South Africa, between the oppressed people, between the two liberation movements and there are some striking parallels. We've seen in South Africa, since 1976, the emergence of a massive trade union movement because South Africa is heavily industrialised. We've seen the emergence of the United Democratic Front. We've seen the emergence of an internal leadership involved in nonviolent political action and we've seen a continuous state of emergency. We've seen people murdered and imprisoned, and babies tear-

sed. And we've seen struggle which has not been stopped. At the same time the armed struggle has gone on and has escalated. From outside our fighters go back in and lead that armed struggle too. On the West Bank we've seen the emergence of a mighty organisation of people stretching across every class, every social grouping — from the poorest farmers and workers and migrant workers to the wealthy, to the professionals, to the shopkeepers — in a united struggle for national liberation.

And this too has, in the South African sense, shaken the Israeli state to the point where it does not know what to do. Should it send in more troops — shouldn't it send in more troops? Well, let's at least pull out the television cameras. That's like a lot of guns saved because after all the United States might get upset. It might withdraw its three billion dollars a year in aid and whatever else goes in covertly. Countries like the United States which have this direct influence are tremendously important. I notice that before the elections proposed for the West Bank can proceed they have to be argued out in the United States — they must have United States approval. It doesn't mean Israel is a simple puppet, of course it has its own agenda too, but there's a mighty amount of influence.

I would like to see the government in this country, Great Britain, my adopted country, take the initiative — not just words — against the state of Israel, against the state of South Africa. That alliance between the people of Palestine and the people of South Africa is unmistakable. We fight the same enemies, we find we use the same tactics, the same strategies, have achieved very similar legitimacies throughout the world. To save myself the trouble of having to say it all in the various South African languages and in English I will simply say in Portuguese a *luta continua*... thank you.

Metaphors of the world, unite!

By Lance Morrow

FORTY-EIGHT intellectuals from around the world recently assembled to help celebrate the sequentennial of Boston University by trying to find a metaphor for the age in which we live. It was an elegant game, but also inadvertently right for an age of television and drugs, in which the world is reduced to a sound bite or a capsule, a quick fix of meaning.

"Postmodern Age" has always been an empty description, and "Postindustrial Age" was a phrase about as interesting as a suburban tract. They are not metaphors anyway, but little black flags of aftermath. An age that is "post" — anything is, by definition, confused and dangerously overextended, like Wile E. Coyote after he has left the cartoon plane of solid rock and freezes in thin air, then tries to tiptoe back along a line of space before gravity notices and takes him down to a little pool in the canyon far below.

The metaphysics of the possibilities can flare and darken. The holocaust and other catastrophes of the 20th century invite the term post-apocalyptic. But a world veering toward the 21st century sometimes has an edgy intuition that it is "pre-apocalyptic." Last summer Francis Fukuyama, a State Department planner, resolved the matter peacefully. He published an article proclaiming the "end of history," a result of the worldwide triumph of Western liberal democracy. Hence this is the posthistoric age, a fourth dimension in

which the human pageant terminates in a fuzz of meaningless well-being. Intellectuals sometimes nurture a spectacular narcissism about the significance of the age they grace.

Is there one brilliant, compact image that captures the era of Gorbachev and the greenhouse effect, of global communications and AIDS, of mass famine and corporate imperialism, of space exploration and the world's seas awash in plastic? The Age of Leisure and the Age of the Refugee coexist with the Age of Clones and the Age of the Deal. Time is fractured in the contemporaneous. We inhabit not one age but many ages simultaneously, from the Bronze to the Space. Did the Ayatollah Khomeini live in the same millennium as, say, Los Angeles?

The era's label should be at least binary, like Dickens' "the best of times, the worst of times," again no metaphor. It is a fallacy to think there is one theme. Like all ages, it is a time of angels and moping dogs — after Ralph Waldo Emerson's lines: "It seems as if heaven had sent its insane angels into our world as to an asylum, and here they break out in their native music and utter at intervals the words they have heard in heaven; then the mad fit returns and they mope and wallow like dogs."

In Boston, Historian Hugh Thomas (Lord Thomas of Swynerton) said the world now is a "tessellated pavement without cement." He was quoting something Edmund Burke said about Charles Townsend, a brilliant but erratic 18th century British

statesman. Not bad, but somewhat bland. The audience had to remember, or look up, tessellation, which is a mosaic of small pieces of marble, glass or tile. This age, thinks Lord Thomas, is a mosaic of fragments, with nothing to hold them together. Is it an age of brilliant incoherence? Yes. It is also an age of incoherent stupidity.

One might put the mosaic in motion by thinking of this as the age of the hand-held TV channel changer. The electronic world (and such a thing is coming into being, a global mass formed by what passes through its billion eyes into the collective brain) has a short attention span and dreams brief dreams. When history vaporizes itself this way — its events streaming off instantly into electrons fired into space and then recombining mysteriously in human living rooms and minds around the world — then people face a surreal pluralism of realities. The small world that the astronauts showed us from space is also, down here, a psychotically tessellated overload of images. The planet reaches for the channel changer, a restless mind-altering instrument. Like drugs, it turns human consciousness into a landscape that is passive, agitated and insatiable — a fatal configuration.

Historians can speak of the Enlightenment or the Baroque Era or La Belle Epoque and not fear that they are describing developments in only a fraction of the world. Now the metaphor must be global. There is no figure of speech so powerful or acrobatic that it can cover such a drama.

the world that looks like the product of a shattered mind, without some immense event (an invasion by aliens perhaps) that overrides all else. Michael Harrington once called this the Accidental Century. Intellectuals sometimes ignore the role of inadvertence. "The fecundity of the unexpected," Proudhon said, "far exceeds the statesman's prudence." If scientists ever perform the alchemy of cold fusion, the age will have a name, and the future of the world will be immeasurably altered.

Metaphors for the age tend to be emotional and subjective, as poetry is. Perspective, passion and experience choose the words. Betty Friedan, saturated with the history of feminism's Long March and where it began, speaks of amazing freedom, as if that were the song of the past 20 years. Others are haunted by the obliteration of artistic form, of moral values and all traditional stabilities.

Language takes its life from life, and gives it back to life as myth, as metaphor, something that has a counterlife of its own. In a world of blindingly accelerating change, language can no longer fashion its metaphors fast enough to stabilise people with a spiritual counterlife, and so self-knowledge may deteriorate to moral blur, like the snow of electrons on a television screen. In some sense the world is plunging on without benefit of metaphor, a dangerous loss. The eyes do not have time to adjust to either the light or the dark — Time magazine.

Urbanisation — pros and cons

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Bad planning over the years has led to wide scattering of urban housing in Amman and, consequently, excessive infrastructure costs. In addition, there is a pronounced shortage of housing for low-income groups. Despite this, Jordan is rated as a highly urbanised country, according to Hisham Zagha, director general of the Urban Development Department (UDD).

One of the major factors contributing to the high demand for low-income housing in urban areas of the Kingdom is that 70 per cent of the total population live in the cities, and the annual growth rate in this sector is four per cent, Zagha explained.

"The low-income group has little choice but to live in overcrowded conditions as a result of a combination of factors," Zagha said in an interview with the Jordan Times. These factors, he said, include shortcomings in the existing infrastructure and zoning policies, high land prices, restricted building regulations and inadequate access to financial institutions which extend assistance to housing projects.

The Housing Corporation (HC), which offers loans for housing projects, was set up with the main aim of helping government employees, but has now branched out to extending help to private sector employees as well. But the corporation is finding it difficult to meet the rising demand for low-income housing, according to Zagha.

Not attractive enough

Another problem is that the housing provided by the corporation is not attractive enough to many middle-income citizens and many such housing units are unoccupied, but remain beyond the reach of the low-income group, he pointed out.

The government is also exerting efforts to clear squatter areas and resettle residents in planned communities. According to Zagha the government sought to regularise existing lease and zoning situations for squatter settlements. Municipalities and public utilities also made efforts to catch up with service deficiencies, "but all in vain, for these efforts were uncoordinated and costly," Zagha said.

In 1980, the UDD was established with the aim of implementing an organised approach to upgrade slum and squatter settlements and service projects for low-income Jordanians. The first UDD project and the most successful, according to Zagha, aimed at providing shelter and community facilities and improving productivity of the urban poor through provision of loans to small enterprises and vocational and commercial training.

"We also aimed at increasing female participation in the labour force through the provision of specialised and female training facilities," through vocational training centres. That involved providing women with three-month diploma courses in typing, dress making, knitting and flower arrangements. Coupled with access to financing for small-scale projects, the skills should enable the graduates of these courses to increase their income, according to Zagha.

The target of the first UDD project, which was launched in 1981 and was completed in 1985, was the low-income families in the Greater Amman area such as Al Wahdat, Jofeh, Wadi Al Rimam, Nuzha and Wadi Had-

dadeh.

The financing — JD 21 million — came from the private and public sectors and the Housing Bank, which contributed 28 per cent of the cost.

Housing Bank figures say that the bank has invested a total of JD 782 million in various projects in the Kingdom, obviously, not in low-income housing.

The World Bank also lends a helping hand to find solutions to the problems created by rapid urbanisation in Jordan. "It also carries out economic and urban work based on studies as well as helping to raise primary urban services, including water and sewage projects," Zagha said. The World Bank contribution was improved physical and urban planning in Amman and other urban centres, according to Zagha.

Squatter areas in Amman were upgraded in the first UDD project, Zagha said. "It accommodated some 1,500 families and created three new sites, and it also services housing schemes for another 5,000 families," he said.

A survey was conducted after the project was completed to assess the population and health characteristics of the squatter set-

tlements. It found that 95 per cent of the households were connected with water and sewerage systems. "The project benefited those families who lived in overcrowded atmospheres," Zagha said. "They are now able to expand both horizontally and vertically."

According to the survey, infant and child mortality rates registered dramatic declines after the UDD project was implemented and awareness of the need for household hygiene had also increased. (For example, in 1981 only 17 per cent of the households used soap, but after the project about 60 per cent started using soap. As a result, Zagha says, "there is notable decrease in intestinal parasites which were detected among children and infants."

10% of women in workforce

The survey also noted that 71 per cent of the infants were immunised against major killer diseases. Eighty nine per cent had immunisation against polio and 57 per cent against measles. These are considerably high figures in comparison to 1981 when the parents overlooked the im-

portance of immunisation, Zagha said. According to the survey, household incomes rose from JD 80 per month in 1981 to JD 120 per month in 1985. Indirectly, the UDD provides the beneficiaries with jobs by building shopping areas and several centres for them to work in. The resulting increase in salaries help the beneficiaries to support the household in a better way, according to Zagha.

However, Zagha noted, five times as many females as males who head households had an income of below JD 50 per month.

Education for young women were nearly as good as for young men. Eighty five per cent of girls and 90 per cent of boys finished primary school. Unfortunately, Zagha added, only 10 per cent of the economically active population is female. Less than half of the beneficiaries expressed dissatisfaction with the room sizes and height of houses offered by the UDD, according to Zagha. The UDD second project, therefore, aimed at a wider range of plot sizes with a maximum area of 300 square metres. "Commercial and community facilities and centres were built, including kinder-

gartens, emergency centres, play grounds and women training centres," he said. Job creation was limited, for the project did not involve trying to find work nor developing markets for the graduates, he added.

According to Zagha, the second project involved upgrading of two sites and developing four new sites. The sites were situated in East Amman "benefiting 30,000 people with 3,500 housing units." The project was started in 1986.

Recently, the UDD moved from the Greater Amman area to national projects, Zagha said. The first project outside the capital was started in Aqaba in 1988, is expected to help over 45,000 people. According to Zagha, the JD 32 million project should be completed by 1992.

"Plans were drawn to develop the Irbid area, but the UDD directors decided to shelve them because the Housing Corporation also had plans along the same lines," Zagha said. "A merger of the HC and UDD plans are being discussed," he said. In the meantime, projects are being delayed in the area. "Irbid is in need of such projects..." Zagha said.

UDD plans do not include refugee camps which are cared for by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). "We aim for the privately-owned but squatted lands," Zagha said.

At the same time, the corporation cannot cater for "families with the lowest 10 per cent income in the scale," Zagha said. "Simply, they will not be able to afford the housing since their average monthly income will be around JD 25," he pointed out.

Several families living in UDD projects in Owaisneh were interviewed by the Jordan Times. One member of a household said: "The costs are far too expensive and our salary does not help us too much."

One mother said: "I am not too satisfied with the spacing, the kitchen is too small, our heads almost touch the ceiling, and, most importantly a family of about four or five barely have room to breathe."

Another family agreed and added: "The majority of the people are cramped in the house. There are doctors but we lack hospitals in our area and other important facilities as well."

A human photographer in an inhuman age

Roland Grob
(IN-PRESS)

JAPAN must have comforted him. With his photograph of two Shinto priests walking along a snow-covered Japanese garden, he conveyed to postwar Europe a pictorial portrayal of the country of the red sun as a concentrated unity for the first time. The legendary anthology of pictures by Swiss press photographer, Werner Bischof, was published in 1954. In May of the same year, he met with a fatal accident whilst on a feature assignment for the "Magnum" photo agency in the Andes. He was just 38 years old.

Via the daily horror of assignments, Bischof stopped off in Japan for a year in 1951/52. He had photographed hunger and misery in India for "Life" magazine, war and refugee distress in Korea. "God dwells where it is pure," this highly sensitive observer of reality is reported to have once said. Japan in the early 1950s complied with his lifelong, in the final analysis, tragic search for a benevolent world free from conflict — and not just what concerns Bischof's well-developed sense of the formal, the compositional. For him, man was constantly what counts — a being to be respected and preserved. Unlike Robert Capa or David Douglas Duncan, he photographed the effects of war and destruction in their concrete, human dimension.

There are no acts of war or front-line scenes to be seen in the exhibition of over 100 photos in the forum of the Kunsthalle in Cologne. Marc Bischof, who has already made a documentary film about his father ("Unterwegs", 1987) put the retrospective together. An extensive monograph of Bischof's works, based on the huge archives, diaries, letters and drawings of one of the undoubtedly most famous of all Swiss photographers, is to follow next year.

Time and again, it is first and foremost children in the background to world-political tragedies which people see when looking at the photographs: in Bischof's opinion, the unspoken potential of this earth, so to speak. The boy playing the flute in Lima (1954), a tear-stained child's face in a Hungarian orphanage (1947) or the emaciated Indian woman with a child in her arms, a photo which has become a Pietà of the Third World; all this offers evidence of profound humanity and moral commitment. His own demands clashed more and more with his clients — American and European magazines such as "Picture Post", "Paris Match", "Life", "Fortune" and "Epoca". From Hanoi in June 1952, he wrote to his wife Rosellina — who, for many years, managed the Zurich Office of the "Magnum" photographic agency, founded by Henri Cartier-Bresson in Paris in 1947

— that his decision "to end his career as a reporter was being further reinforced."

This photographer, who was first encouraged by Arnold Kuber — editor-in-chief of the Swiss picture magazine "DU" — to become a press photographer as late as 1943, coincides in no way with the usual concept of a shirt-sleeved, self-taught, breakneck reporter. Something which is an exception in this photographic profession: between the years 1932 and 1936, Bischof received his photographic training at the Zurich School of Arts and Crafts under Hans Finsler — who had been very much influenced by the Bauhaus School. The purely formal, highly aesthetic photo-montages, plant-photo programmes, women's portraits and publicity photos, such as for the Worth fashion house, around 1940, reveal a little known Werner Bischof whose personal style and technical expertise had their origins here. The path from unharmed Switzerland to bleeding Europe can be retraced in numerous, partly famous photographs after 1945 — as a shock for the beholders. In a United Nations re-education camp for North Korean communists, Bischof photographed a six-year-old (!) POW in 1952. In the same camp one sees the American Statue of Liberty in wood. Here, from Koje-do, Bischof wrote: "The world seems even crazier since I have been in this camp."

There is, however, also had news. Coverage of pregnant women with a second dose of tetanus toxoid still only stands at 25 per cent.

But Dr. Ralph H. Henderson, Director of the EPI, was optimistic. "This is a terrific accomplishment," he said. "We are on the threshold of realising our dream of reaching at least 80 per cent coverage of the world's children with all of these EPI vaccines by the end of next year." PANOS.



Werner Bischof: Famine in Madras, India, 1950. Photo: Rheinisches Bildarchiv, Cologne

Soviet UFO sightings linked to religious belief, escapism

By David Ljunggren
Reuters

VORONEZH, Soviet Union — A rash of UFO sightings in the Soviet Union has much more to do with religious belief, escapism and a newspaper circulation war than with visitors from other planets.

For the past week, Soviet newspapers have entertained the public with stories about contacts with aliens in spaceports, concentrating on an alleged landing in September by a UFO (unidentified flying object) in this central Russian city.

The phenomenon is not new — the press had earlier carried stories of extra-terrestrial activity — but public interest is keen despite the fact that no evidence has emerged to back up the stories other than the statements of a few children.

"Much of it has to do with the tremendous upsurge in religion over the past few years. Russians are by nature deeply religious people and are now desperately looking for something to believe in," said one Western diplomat in Moscow.

Religious belief was heavily discouraged during the rule of Josef Stalin and only really started to recover after Mikhail Gorbachev came to power and encouraged more freedom of thought.

"I believe the spaceship was a message from Jesus. He was telling us we have to be as innocent as children, which is why only the young saw the space ship land," said Alexander Mosolov, a member of the local team investigating the Voronezh incident.

The popularity of UFO stories has been matched by the rise to

fame of television faith healers such as Anatoly Kashpirovsky and Alan Chumak, both of whom regularly draw huge audiences to their shows.

"Don't forget that in many ways this is a middle ages culture. People are god-fearing, gullible and very, very superstitious. There has always been a belief in the occult here," said a Soviet academic.

Some analysts say Gorbachev's policy of glasnost, or openness in the press, has provided particularly fertile ground for stories of visits from other planets.

The policy has encouraged the press to discuss many previously taboo subjects, such as Stalin's reign of terror in the 1930s.

"The trouble is that they're running out of fascinating revelations from the past. People know that Stalin was a bad man, but even Lenin had his problems. They need new sensational discoveries and UFOs fit the bill perfectly," one diplomat said.

The rush for exclusive stories has also resulted in a circulation war using tactics which would impress even the hardest of Western popular press editors.

In August, Moscow's Vechnaya Moskva daily said Chumak would bless the subscription coupon in its September 1 issue, guaranteeing a happy life and other wonderful benefits to those who subscribed using the coupon.

Anxious readers mobbed the capital's newspaper sellers, and on the black market copies of the issue fetched up to 20 times their face value.

The chaotic state of the nation's economy has encouraged many Soviet citizens to revel in stories of UFO visits.

WHO: Polio immunisation reaches two-thirds mark

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO) has announced that, for the first time in history, immunisation coverage for the world has reached the two-thirds mark (67%) for a third dose of polio vaccine for children reaching their first year of life.

Other good news is contained in the global immunisation fi-

gures released by WHO's Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI): third dose coverage for diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT) stands at 66 per cent coverage for the vaccine used against tuberculosis (BCG) has reached 71 per cent; and measles vaccine coverage is 61 per cent.

There is, however, also had news. Coverage of pregnant women with a second dose of tetanus toxoid still only stands at 25 per cent.

But Dr. Ralph H. Henderson, Director of the EPI, was optimistic. "This is a terrific accomplishment," he said. "We are on the threshold of realising our dream of reaching at least 80 per cent coverage of the world's children with all of these EPI vaccines by the end of next year." PANOS.

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Wall Street storms make Arab investors think twice

Hindi advises Arab banks to form major blocs in EC

ABU DHABI (R) — Some Arab banks could go out of business unless they forge a joint strategy to survive in the European Community's (EC's) post-1992 single market, a senior Arab banker has said.

"We have to realise that without a joint strategy we will find ourselves on the sidelines," said Adnan Al Hindi, secretary-general of the Beirut-based Arab Bankers Union (ABU).

Hindi, whose union groups 275 banks in the Arab World, told Reuters in an interview the single EC market would demand large banking units and urged the generally small Arab banks to merge into bigger groups.

"This should prompt Arab banks in the EC to take practical measures, especially mergers, otherwise we will hear much about bankruptcies and withdrawals," he said.

"We are talking about banking blocs. I see no hope for the survival of the smallest against the biggest," he said.

Hindi said Arab banks in the

EC also failed to attract customers from their own countries. "The mistake of Arab banks abroad is that their services do not compete with those of foreign banks."

He estimated that deposits of Arab governments in Arab banks abroad were less than four per cent of such deposits with other foreign banks.

He said the EC was putting Arab banks under pressure by classing Arab states, except Saudi Arabia, in higher credit risk categories.

Some Arab banks were also finding it difficult to meet an internationally-agreed eight per cent level for banks' capital adequacy ratios, the relationship between shareholder capital and bank assets, he added.

Gulf investors have always

looked beyond their desert countries to fertile fields abroad.

But the second Wall Street shakeout in two years which shook major stock markets in the past week has them think some of their wealth may be safer in their own emerging markets, local analysts and brokers say.

Last Friday's Wall Street slump caused hardly a ripple in the young markets of the Gulf Arab states and, if overseas volatility became a long-term problem, new investors could stay at home, and old investors could repatriate more capital.

Established Gulf investors deploy an estimated \$300 to \$400 billion overseas. Perhaps over \$100 billion of this is in stocks at any one time.

A Saudi stock analyst said these investors take a long-term view and, although the latest Wall Street slump had rattled them, they were unlikely to withdraw money immediately.

"But... if the decline continues, then perhaps in the long-run it will have a positive impact on the interest of local investors in their own markets," he said.

Others believe the effect could be more immediate.

"After this new shock, part of the Gulf private sector's funds is expected to return home," said Abdul Malik Al Hamar, United Arab Emirates (UAE) central bank governor.

Jassem Al Sadoun of Kuwait Al Shail economic consultants predicted the fall would have a mild positive effect as some investors brought funds back over the next few weeks.

A growing number of smaller investors are more easily frightened.

"The world stock crises are having a strong psychological effect on those investors as they have no experience. I think they will prefer to keep their funds here," said UAE broker and chairman of Emirates Commer-

cial Centre Ali Yassin.

Gulf economists believe that as long as volatility on industrialised countries' markets does not cause drastic recession in their real economies, the industrial world demand for oil will continue.

As a result, Gulf oil revenues, estimated at over 30 per cent higher than a year ago, will continue to rise, the local economies will resume growth and local company stocks will be insulated from the cold winds of Wall Street, the economists said.

Brokers in Bahrain said the Wall Street gyrations had no effect on their trade while Hashem Sabbagh, chairman of Oman's new Muscat Securities Market, said his market was healthy.

The upturn in the local economies and the beginning of overseas market turbulence with the 1987 stocks crash coincided with, and then stimulated, moves by the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states to develop their local markets.

Analysts have estimated Gulf investors lost around \$25 billion in the 1987 crash.

Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain now have official stock trading floors while Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar are all considering opening them.

The GCC last December agreed in principle that all GCC citizens could buy and sell in any other GCC market. But brokers say allowing in foreign investors is still a long way off.

No one expects regional markets to ever take the place of the big overseas stockmarkets, but analysts say there is still much more potential and a great need for expansion.

"Before we talk about repatriation of funds, we have to find outlets for the excess liquidity in the Gulf," said Ziad Dabbas, head of share dealing at the National Bank of Abu Dhabi.

Government pools views on Jordan's economic strategies

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has endorsed a recommendation for holding joint periodic meetings between representatives from both the public and private sectors in the Kingdom in order to highlight the private sector's role in the comprehensive national development.

According to the Prime Minister's decision, the periodic meetings at the highest level will initiate open dialogue and exchange views on issues of interest to the country.

During a preparatory meeting held Thursday at the Ministry of Industry and Trade under the chairmanship of Minister Zeid Innab, there was an exchange of views on the best methods to be followed during these periodic meetings.

The meeting was attended by the Ministry's Secretary-General Mohammed Al Saqqaf and presidents and members of the boards of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Amman Chamber of Industry.

The participants agreed to hold a meeting every four months for members of the financial, economic and planning committees and representatives of the private sector in Jordan.

During such meetings, participants will discuss the government policies and various economic programmes.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Innab to head team for Tunis talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the Arab Economic and Social Council meetings due to be held in Tunis Tuesday. Representing Jordan in the two-day meetings will be an official delegation headed by Industry and Trade Minister Zeid Innab.

Jazzar praises Jordan's endeavours

AMMAN (Petra) — Council of Arab Economic Unity's (CAEU's) Assistant Secretary-General Mahmoud Khalil Al Jazzar Thursday paid tribute to Jordan for its continuous pan-Arab economic support and noted in particular the full support His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan provide to the CAEU's resolutions. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Jazzar said he was optimistic that the pan-Arab institutions would be able to play their role in forging and cementing inter-Arab relations despite the difficult situations facing the pan-Arab economic task, as a result of the world economic recession, the reversal of cash flows and the increasing Arab indebtedness. He called on such institutions to contribute towards solving these problems and capitalising on their broad experiences in the economic field. Jazzar, who has recently taken up his new post at the CAEU, voiced hope that Arab countries play a major role in reviving Arab institutions, in implementation of the recommendations and calls made by Arab leaders during their latest Arab summit.

U.S. House passes \$842m aid bill

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House of Representatives has overwhelmingly approved a Democratic plan for \$842 million in U.S. aid to be spread over three years to help Poland and Hungary move towards democracy. The House sent the bill to the Senate, where approval of a similar measure was expected this week. The bill included \$200 million to stabilise the Polish economy, \$125 million in food aid for Poland and \$200 million in loans to spur private business in Poland and Hungary. The aid, nearly twice the \$455 million proposed by President George Bush, was proposed Oct. 3 by Democratic leaders who accused Bush of doing too little to aid democratic reforms in the two countries. Bush has not fought the bill, even though he has said the money level was too high, and House Republicans overwhelmingly joined in approving it.

British inflation rate hits 7.6%

LONDON (R) — Retail prices in Britain rose by their highest amount for five months in September, taking the annual inflation rate to 7.6 per cent and interrupting a previous slowdown in price rises. The government said the 0.7 per cent rise in the retail price index for September was the highest monthly increase since April's 1.8 per cent. Forecasters had expected a 0.4 per cent rise to keep inflation level at its August rate of 7.3 per cent.

USSR buys Turkish tea

ANKARA (R) — The Soviet Union whose 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant blast affected Turkey's Black Sea tea-growing area, has become a major market for Turkish dry tea, tea officials said. "We will sell the Soviet Union 25,000 tonnes of tea this year and plan to sell them even more next year," Sureyya Turgut, the Turkish Tea Board's deputy director-general, told Reuters. The 25,000 tonnes destined for the Soviet Union after oil exports in 1988 represent just over one-sixth of Turkey's estimated total dry tea production of 143,000 tonnes this year, down from 165,000 in 1988 and 157,000 the previous year. Tea Board officials said total 1989 exports, including 3,000 tonnes to Britain, were likely to be 32,000 tonnes, up sharply from 183 tonnes in 1988 and 177 tonnes the previous year. "The rise in exports to the Soviet Union is due in part to glasnost, which has led to greater domestic Soviet demand for tea," he said.

Lawson defends unpopular policy

LONDON (R) — Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, sharply criticised for using high interest rates to choke inflation, defended his strategy Thursday as the only way to cure Britain's economic ills.

"The key to operating a sound monetary policy is to take correct and timely decisions on interest rates," Lawson told a formal banquet for bankers given by the Lord Mayor at London's Mansion House.

Lawson's unpopular decision this month to raise interest rates by one percentage point to an eight-year high of 15 per cent hurt home owners by forcing up mortgage rates and pinched small businessmen running their enterprises on big loans.

In a speech traditionally used by chancellors to unveil policy changes, Lawson set out his single-minded commitment to high interest rates and warned of bleak times ahead as he tried to bring inflation from the economy.

"We cannot allow the necessary rigour of monetary policy to be undermined by exchange rate weakness. This means that interest rates will have to remain high for some time to come," the chancellor said.

Critics have urged Lawson to return to the use of rigid money supply targets to control inflation, or to go back to consumer credit controls which were widely used in the 1970s.

He ruled out both and said of credit controls: "Any attempt to impose restrictions on U.K. lending institutions would very soon be as full of holes as a colander."

But Lawson was given a grim reminder of his old enemy inflation Thursday with new data showing a sharp rise in wages and record borrowing in September.

Almost unprecedented growth for eight years in the British economy culminated in an unsustainable growth spurt last year and in 1987, Lawson said of a decade of Conservative rule.

Lawson said the EMS should be market-based.

"There is a very real danger that any attempt to take any other route will end in tears,"

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday October 19, 1989 Central Bank official rates				
U.S. dollar	Buy	Sell	French franc	99.6 100.6
Pound Sterling	627.0	633.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	443.1 447.5
Deutschemark	977.8	1007.2	Dutch guilder	299.7 302.7
Swiss franc	338.4	341.8	Swedish crown	97.4 98.4
	385.9	389.8	Italian lire (for 100)	46.0 46.5
			Belgian franc (for 10)	156.9 158.5

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Oct. 14-18	Oct. 7-11
Daily average	JD 1,672,437	JD 1,991,457
Total volume	JD 8,362,187	JD 9,957,285
Total shares	5,586,575	4,627,784
No. of contracts	4,794	5,515

Sectoral trading:

Industrial	JD 5,240,503 (62.7%)	JD 7,387,167 (74.2%)
Financial	JD 1,681,780 (20.1%)	JD 1,098,336 (11.0%)
Service	JD 1,681,780 (20.1%)	JD 1,098,336 (11.0%)
Insurance	JD 1,681,780 (20.1%)	JD 1,098,336 (11.0%)
Share price index	130.6	130.9
No. of companies	60	57
Price movement (rise)	26	32
(decline)	28	17
(stable)	6	8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.5915/25	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1737/47	Canadian dollar
	1.8455/62	Deutschemarks
	2.0843/50	Dutch guilders
	1.6175/85	Swiss francs
	38.80/83	Belgian francs
	6.2700/50	French francs
	1359/1360	Italian lire
	141.75/85	Japanese yen
	6.4175/4225	Swedish crowns
	6.9000/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.1950/2000	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	366.55/366.95	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — A stronger close on Wall Street lifted share prices in subdued trading. The All Ordinaries index closed 17.9 up at 1,673.8.

TOKYO — The market ended the week on a high note, buoyed by Wall Street. The Nikkei rose 112.16 points to close at 35,486.38.

HONG KONG — Prices rose sharply on Wall Street gains and news signalling a positive turn in Sino-British relations. The Hang Seng index soared 40.58 points to 2,703.95.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed with pared gains on profit-taking in moderate trade. The Straits Times industrial index rose 8.48 to 1,345.60.

BOMBAY — Share prices moved erratically and ended mixed, with gaining stocks rising sharply on heavy institutional buying for the third day running.

FRANKFURT — German share prices closed marginally lower in relatively thin trade. The DAX 30-share real time index ended down 2.39 points at 1,524.21.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed slightly lower in slow trade. The all-share performance index closed 2.9 points lower at 1,148.9.

PARIS — French share prices ended lower in moderate trading. The CAC-40 index ended 0.57 per cent lower after opening up 0.47 per cent.

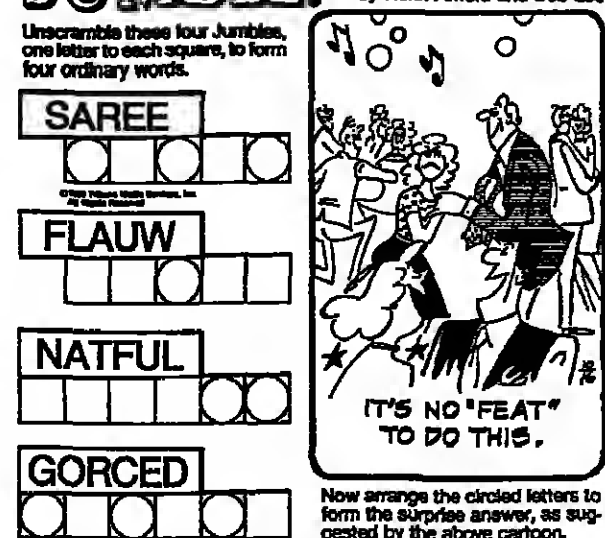
LONDON — Share prices were mostly lower in quiet late trading. At 1522 GMT the FTSE index was 12.4 points down at 2,176.9.

NEW YORK — U.S. stock prices were weak at midsession, but blue chips managed to regain some ground. The Dow was down about eight to 2675.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Inter-Korea talks make breakthrough

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) — Sports officials from South and North Korea Friday made a breakthrough in talks on forming a single team for next year's Asian games by agreeing on a joint flag, and made progress in procedures for picking athletes.

Officials from both sides praised the progress made at the talks, the first since March, but said many obstacles remain before a final agreement can be reached. The two Koreas have begun to make some progress in recent talks on bettering relations after months of stalemate.

"There was a considerable progress on the flag and others, including the selection of athletes for the joint team," North Korean chief delegate Kim Hyung Jin said after the four-hour meeting at the Panmunjom truce site.

Kim voiced optimism about formation of a joint team, saying, "We will do our best to form the first single team in our history and we in turn expect the south to do so also."

His South Korean counterpart, Chang Chung-Sik, also reported progress, but said the talks still must solve knotty issues such as a name for the proposed single team.

"The northern side was rather active and straightforward and there was some progress. But I would not say the prospect is 100 per cent bright," Chang said after the meeting.

Friday's sports talks were businesslike, with both sides avoiding political exchanges. Recent talks on other issues have been marked by acrimonious political debate.

Edberg advances into Seiko semifinals

TOKYO (AP) — Top-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden, keeping his concentration throughout the match, Friday beat Frenchman Henri Leconte 6-1, 7-6 (9-8) in the quarterfinals of the \$627,500 Seiko super tennis tournament.

Edberg, ranked third in the world, broke the second and sixth games to take the first set in 27 minutes on the artificial court of Yoyogi National Stadium.

In the second set, Edberg was down 0-40 in the sixth game but rallied with strong serves and volleys as the two players kept their serves through the sixth game.

Edberg then broke the seventh game and Leconte broke back the next game.

In the tie-breaker, Leconte led 7-6 with an ace and needed one more point to win the second set. But Edberg gained the next two points, and Leconte then netted a forehand shot.

"I tried my best," Leconte

said. "In the first set, my serves were too strong. He returned well. I was getting better and better in the second set but I was disappointed as a 7-6 set point slipped away in the tie-break."

Edberg said, "Leconte is always a tough opponent. He hit the ball hard and it was difficult to get rhythm. I concentrated on each point and that was the main factor for the victory."

In other quarterfinal matches, third-seeded Aaron Krickstein of the United States beat erratic Grant Connell of Canada 6-3, 6-4.

After taking the first set, Krickstein broke the first and seventh games. Krickstein, ranked 10th in the world, kept the 10th game without losing a point. Connell had 39 unforced errors against Krickstein's 23. Connell hit 55 per cent of his first serves while Krickstein 64 per cent.

Fifth-seeded Carl-Uwe Steeb of West Germany posted a 6-4, 7-5 triumph over American quali-



Stefan Edberg

fier Rick Leach.

"I prepared well for this tournament," Steeb said. "I was hitting well today."

Edberg plays Krickstein and Steeb meets Darren Cahill of Australia in the semifinals Saturday.

Cahill beat Ronald Agener of Haiti 3-6, 7-6 (9-7), 6-4 in the quarterfinals.

The singles winner will receive \$100,000 and the runner-up \$50,000.

Korobchinski wins men's title

STUTTGART (AP) — Igor Korobchinski of the Soviet Union earned one perfect mark and the gold medal Thursday in the men's all-around competition at the world gymnastics championships.

The 19-year-old Soviet got a 10 in the vault to add his first world title to the European all-around title he won in May.

The silver medal went to another Soviet, Valery Mogulni, who also had one perfect score, on the pommel horse.

A fall of the horizontal bar at his last rotation sent Olympic champion Vladimir Artemov to sixth place and prevented a Soviet sweep.

Li Jing of China took the bronze.

The Soviets also won golds in the men's and women's team competitions.

Until the last rotation, it had looked as if the Soviets were going to repeat the medal sweep they scored at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

Artemov had been trailing from the opening exercise and the battle for the gold medal was always between Korobchinski and Mogulni.

Mogulni earned a 10 in his second routine, on the pommel horse, one of his specialties. He won a gold in the pommel horse at the 1985 world championships and was European champion on the apparatus in May.

But Korobchinski was not to be outdone. He followed with a spectacular triple forward somersault that also earned him a perfect mark and the lead after

three rotations.

Artemov had a poor start, getting only a 9.60 for his unconvincing opening routine on the floor. He improved on the pommel horse, getting a 9.90, and had a 9.850 on the rings, like Mogulni.

At the half-way mark of the evening's programme, Artemov was fourth.

At the next rotation all three Soviets got 9.90s — Artemov and Mogulni in the vault and Korobchinski on the parallel bars. That put them on course for a sweep, with Korobchinski leading.

Artemov and Mogulni then moved to the parallel bars, where the Olympic champion scored a 9.90 to Mogulni's 9.80. Korobchinski, on the horizontal bar at the time, earned only a 9.80 despite a daring routine.

Tyson adjusts to northern chill

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Mike Tyson sat down on a chair in the middle of the worn-out, patched-up boxing ring at Panther Gym in Edmonton on Thursday as sweat poured down his forehead.

"We've been traveling a lot and the climate change has left me a little tired, but that's why we came this early, to get used to the climate," the world heavyweight boxing champion said.

He had just finished sparring with three different opponents on his first day of local training for his Nov. 18 title defense against Razor Ruddock.

Tyson had an easy two rounds with Chubby Eli Dixon, then had a spirited two rounds with former champion Greg Page before losing a bit of steam in a wrap-up against Jesse Ferguson.

Tyson seemed tired but in good spirits and at home in the dingy, hot gym basement.

"I love the little rinky-dink gyms, I love them," he said. "That's what fighting's all about."

With reporters standing and kneeling at his side inside the ring, Tyson said he generally bars the media from his gym. But he's taken a liking to local contingent.

"You're cool guys. It's a pleasure to have you here," he said. "I respect the way you treat me. In other places, they have a little flaky attitude. I really appreciate your hospitality."

Tyson, 37-0 with 33 knockouts, said he's in great shape. But the

change of climate for the "cold war," as the fight has been dubbed, will take some time to overcome.

He got first-hand experience early Thursday when he went out for his daily run. The temperature dipped to near freezing overnight but did rise about 20 degrees by the time he was sparring.

Tyson usually trains in Las Vegas, but he had moved to Albany, New York, in recent weeks so he could meet the requirements of a community service sentence he drew for a driving offense.

"It's pretty cold, yeah," said Tyson, who skipped rope to loud rap music — as a propane heater blew right behind him — before getting taped for sparring.

Nuggets' pride, reputation at stake

ROME (AP) — The start of the National Basketball Association's regular season still is two weeks away, but don't tell the Denver Nuggets that the McDonald's Open is just another exhibition.

Pride and reputation are at stake for the Nuggets, who open the four-team tournament Friday night against Spanish champion Barcelona. Italian champion Philips Milan faces Yugoslavia's Split of Yugoslavia in the other game.

Coming from the NBA, the Nuggets are expected to win. And Denver guard Lafayette "Fat" Lever, for one, doesn't want to make history as the first NBA team to lose in the McDonald's Open.

The Milwaukee Bucks won the inaugural tournament at Milwaukee in 1987 and the Boston Celtics won at Madrid, Spain, last year.

"I don't look at this as an

important game to win," Lever said after Thursday's practice at the Palaeur Arena. "We've got a lot of pressure of us. I don't want to lose here and have to go back to the NBA and have people say, 'how could you lose to those guys? You must be the worst team in the NBA.'"

Lever, who led Denver in rebounds, steals and assists last season, said the team enjoys the spotlight of playing in Rome.

"It's a prestige thing," he said. "The NBA will take more notice of us, more than if we were playing Los Angeles or Detroit at home. Denver never gets the notoriety. So this is a big stepping stone for us. This gives the Denver Nuggets a chance to be put on the map."

Coach Doug Moe, however, said he doesn't think the Nuggets have anything to prove for the NBA.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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1 IS FOR INFERENCE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

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♥ K 8
♦ K 9 7 5
♣ A K 3 2

WEST
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EAST
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♣ A J 10 4

SOUTH
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The bidding:

South West North East

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5 ♠ Pass 5 NT Pass

6 ♠ Pass 6 ♣ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

This week, we will concentrate on

gleaning clues from the bidding and

play. One of the beauties of bridge

is that it gives practitioners a chance

to reason and infer, rather than

project from a position where every-

thing is known, as in chess. This

hand fooled a many-time national

champion.

Even though North-South were

playing five-card majors, North was prepared to play in a diamond slam even opposite a three-card suit in partner's hand. When South could not bid a grand slam, North signed off in six diamonds.

Declarer won the opening club lead in dummy and East dropped the queen. A trump to the ace revealed the bad break, and declarer could not recover. Since he needed to ruff dummy's club losers in hand, he could not draw East's fangs, and East eventually scored a trump trick and a club ruff.

East's queen of clubs at the first trick should have flashed a warning signal that declarer was going to encounter bad breaks. After winning the opening lead, correct technique was for declarer to cash the king of diamonds. When the trump position shows up, declarer can still get home with careful timing.

After cashing the king-ace of spades and king-ace of hearts, declarer should ruff a heart in dummy. A marked trump finessé is then the entry to ruff a spade, and another trump finessé allows declarer to draw all of East's trumps. In practice, West will be squeezed in the black suits, and declarer will collect all the tricks.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today's moon square makes it impossible to wind up plans, especially where your motivations for your future conduct — mental progress and advancement are concerned. Keep your eyes open for the right assistant.

ARIES: (March 20 to April 17) If you owe any friends money, it's to your interest to get them paid now. Compliment your family by taking them out on the town for a good time.

TAURUS: (April 18 to May 19) You have the chance to do a wonderful service for a good friend. Put more of your own special creative ideas into your business.

GEMINI: (May 20 to June 20) You now are able to get considerably more data so you can well handle your finances. Don't allow an outside associate to come into your home and cause some trouble.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 21) Persons with different viewpoints will now join with you in your duties. A day to go along with what your family won't go along with your views.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A day not to call friends to take advantage of your generosity. You can't see why members of your family won't agree with your views.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) A private conversation with a devoted friend will bring excellent results. Enjoy all the multitude of activity in your home today. This is a day for quick action.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) You are greatly tempted to spend more than you can afford.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will be able to build up quite a feeling of security that is so important in this life by being deeply in touch with the spiritual side of life. Study and the search for knowledge will be very much part of this individual life and they won't marry until later in life.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

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P.O. Box 3312
Amman
Jordan

THE Daily Crossword by Frank Geary

ACROSS

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RAINBOW

Dustin Hoffman
Tom Cruise
In

RAIN MAN

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 9:00

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Terry Farrell...in

CRAZY LEGS

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

MANDINGO

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NUJOUN

STEVEN SPIELBERG AND
WALT DISNEY STUDIOS
Present

who framed
ROGER RABBIT

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 677428

PLAZA

Dustin Hoffman
Tom Cruise
In

RAIN MAN

Performances: 4:00, 6:45, 9:30

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Halloween

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Anne and Bridie Conlon hold a picture of their brother Gerard, the alleged ringleader of the Guildford pub bombers, before his release Thursday.

Court overturns wrong convictions in Iraq bombing

LONDON (AP) — The government has ordered an inquiry into alleged police misconduct after the freeing of three people wrongly convicted of an IRA (Irish Republican Army) bombing 14 years ago.

The police officers involved in the investigations that led to the 1975 convictions "must have been Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, said in his ruling Thursday.

A fourth person cleared in the bombing case by the appeals court ruling was taken to Belfast, where his attorneys sought bail while they appealed an unrelated murder conviction.

In a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) television interview Thursday night, Home Secretary Douglas Hurd, the cabinet minister responsible for police, described the outcome as "a blow for the whole system" of criminal justice in Britain.

The London newspaper The Independent published a cartoon Friday showing Hurd staggering from a bomb-blasted building labelled "criminal justice system."

The appeals court threw out the convictions of Gerard Conlon, 35, Patrick Armstrong, 39, and Paul Hill, 35, all of Belfast, and Carole Richardson, 32, of London, in the bombing of a pub at Guildford in Surrey southwest of London Oct. 5, 1974. Five people died in that explosion.

AP had been sentenced to life in prison. "Thank God we've not got capital punishment," said Anthony Scrivener, an attorney for one of the defendants. Relatives and others in the public gallery of the old Bailey

cheered as Lord Lane announced the court's decision.

"I've been in prison for 15 years for something I didn't do," Conlon shouted to a cheering crowd outside the court as he walked free.

The convictions of Armstrong and Hill for a pub bombing in the London suburb of Woolwich Nov. 6, 1974, also were reversed. Two people died in that attack.

Hill was rearrested and taken to Belfast in Northern Ireland, where he had been convicted and sentenced to life in prison for the murder of a former British soldier.

David Williams, deputy chief constable of the Surrey county police force, whose officers handled the original investigation, said Thursday that three officers had been suspended from duty pending the inquiry by retired appeals judge Sir John May.

The appeals court ruling climaxed years of effort by relatives, former government officials, church leaders and journalists to overturn the verdict and focused fresh attention on two other bombing cases from the 1970s.

The sentences of the four had been upheld in 1977 even though members of an IRA group made detailed confessions in the case.

But Roy Amlot of the Office of Public Prosecutions told the hearing Thursday that new evidence "throws such doubt upon the honesty had integrity of a number of the Surrey officers investigating this case in 1974 that crown now feels unable to say that the convictions of any of the four are safe or satisfactory."

Thatcher stands alone on South Africa, environment fund

Britain holds up Commonwealth accord

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Britain's Margaret Thatcher stood alone against the Commonwealth Friday on the two significant issues facing the organisation's biennial summit conference.

"It's 48 to one — again," said one conference source sadly. "The Commonwealth, throughout its 40 year history, has suffered the tyranny of one. It used to be South Africa. Now it's another," he said of the British prime minister.

Thatcher was stubbornly refusing to endorse an Australian plan to tighten the financial screws on South Africa, which left the organisation linking Britain's former imperial possessions in 1961.

She also refused to accept a mandatory fund to save the

world's environment, officials said.

Intense negotiations since the conference started Wednesday resulted in all but Britain agreeing to incorporate India's proposal for a planet protection fund into a Malaysian-drafted declaration on the environment, they said.

The declaration is intended to be the centrepiece of the six-day summit. Thatcher's refusal to accept the idea of a fund promises lively debate when the leaders

adjourn for a weekend private session on the resort island of Langkawi.

"The Indians argued passionately that the principle of a mandatory fund must be included or efforts to save the environment would never get off ground," a source said.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi proposed the idea at the Belgrade summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in September.

Under it, each United Nations member apart from the least developed countries would contribute a tiny proportion of its gross domestic product, raising \$18 billion a year for a U.N.-administered fund to save the environment.

India believes environmental problems can be solved by technology and that a fund would allow poor nations to acquire the means to industrialise without causing pollution and other damage.

The sources said there was still hope Thatcher would endorse the environment declaration at the private retreat, to which the leaders will take only one aide.

"Surely, Britain cannot be seen, in terms of Mrs. Thatcher's own domestic position and the increasing importance of the Greens in Europe, as too much of a hardliner on such a sensitive issue as the environment," a senior official said.

Another source said Thatcher

had replaced the British official negotiating on the declaration because he was too flexible.

There was significantly less hope that she would come round to endorsing a five-point plan proposed by Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke to hasten the end of apartheid in South Africa.

Thatcher told her fellow leaders it was time to be offering "carrots" to tempt South Africa to end apartheid rather than wielding the "stick" of tighter sanctions.

Officials said she was also strongly opposed to the Hawke plan's backing of the Harare declaration, an African blueprint for a negotiated settlement in South Africa.

Nobel literature winner never read his books

MADRID (R) — Camilo Jose Cela joked after winning the 1989 Nobel Prize for Literature Thursday that he had never read any of his novels and said the prize would not change his life.

Downing a celebratory glass of champagne, the grand old man of Spanish letters was asked which of his books was his favourite. "I don't know, I haven't read any. The only thing I can say is that I don't regret a single page of what I have written."

"Life has to go on and tomorrow I'll have a bath and a shave etcetera etcetera," Cela, 73, told a news conference.

But Cela said the prize from the Swedish academy of letters

was a great honour. "It's the culmination of my working life."

Asked whether the three million crown (\$455,000) award had been his greatest aspiration, the novelist said the greatest aspiration of any writer would be to have written "Don Quixote."

"But since that has to be ruled out, of course, yes. The Nobel Prize is very important to me since I have never won it before," he chuckled.

Cela, the fifth Spaniard to win the award, said he did not know how much money it was worth. "Any writer who thinks that the important thing about prizes is

money is worthy of pity."

"I offer it (the prize) to all Spanish literature. I think four or five other Spanish and Latin American writers writing in Spanish could have won it as much as me."

People in his hometown of Padron, in the northwestern region of Galicia, planned to set off fireworks and play Galician pipes and Mayor Jesus Villamar said the band would play for a week.

"It's great news for Spanish literature, he's one of the great prose-writers of our literature," said Culture Minister Jorge Semprun, himself a novelist.

Manuel Alvar, president of the National Academy of Language,

said he was surprised Cela had not received the prize earlier.

"As a stylist he probably has no equal," said Alvar.

Sprightly despite his advancing years, Cela lives in the small town of Guadalajara north of Madrid with a woman companion, writing regularly for newspapers and appearing on television in a weekly chat show.

"I am writing more and reading less all the time," said Cela, who has never learned to type and does all his writing longhand.

Referring to his English-born mother, Cela said the British side of his character had taught him one should only appear in the press three times in a lifetime —

"when born, when dead and when receiving the Victoria Cross."

His works — he is best known for "The Family of Pascual Duarte", published in 1942 and for "The Beehive," published in 1951 — have focused on the darker side of life and have not shied from the irreverent and controversial.

Cela said the evolution of his work over the more than 50 years since he began writing was a question for literary historians. "Obviously as I have gained wisdom and experience, I have lost freshness. I think this must happen to most writers."

China quake leaves thousands homeless

PEKING (AP) — Thousands of homeless people sought shelter from bitter autumn winds Friday as rescue operations resumed in the worst earthquake to hit northern China in more than a decade.

According to a dispatch from the official Xinhua News Agency, 29 people died in a series of six earthquakes Wednesday night and Thursday morning that rocked a broad swath of northeastern Shanxi and Hebei provinces.

The China Daily newspaper said more than 150 were injured, many seriously and quoted a Shanxi Communist Party official as saying, "The problem is serious, and the casualties may increase."

The newspaper report said 10,320 houses in Shanxi province had collapsed and that restoring electricity to the area will be difficult.

"This was the worst quake we've ever had," Liu Rongzhen, a peasant in Xicaitian village in Shanxi province, told a Western reporter. "I was asleep in the house when the first quake woke me up. It rocked the walls and we went outside. With the second quake the house collapsed."

About half the mud and wattle homes in the impoverished dusty town of 820 people were heavily damaged. A short distance away, not one home was left standing in the village of Bucun, which has 1,280 people.

A man of about 60 and his

octogenarian mother were killed in Bucun as he was carrying her out of the house.

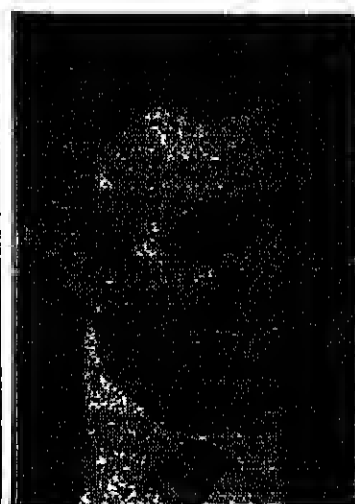
Two plain wooden caskets with straw covers were set up in the house, which was open to the sky with the walls only partly standing. A neighbour wailed as she viewed the caskets, which had stocks of biscuits placed at their head, an apparent religious offering.

Many people spent Thursday night huddled around campfires and sleeping in makeshift straw tents. Temperatures dipped to near freezing on the treeless brown plain and people were wrapped in heavy winter greatcoats to protect themselves from the wind whipping in from Siberia.

On Friday, some rummaged through the destruction, others sat on the rubble doing nothing. People said temperatures reach -30 degrees Celsius in the area during the winter, and said they were worried because it would be impossible to rebuild their homes before then.

District officials had come to inspect the damage, but no outside assistance had arrived to lead relief operations.

The official news media and government offices have provided few details of the quakes, which were centered about 220 kilometres west of Peking and reached an intensity of 6.1 on the Richter scale.



Egon Krenz

Krenz uses Gorbachev style to end crisis

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany's new leader Egon Krenz is seeking to end his country's worst crisis in 36 years by opening up the official media, listening to workers' complaints and talking with the "powerful Protestant church."

Since he replaced the 77-year-old hardliner Erich Honecker as Communist Party chief Wednesday, Krenz, 52, has projected a sharp public image with elements of the populism of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

But as a former security police chief who applauded China's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators this year, Krenz has his work cut out to convince his countrymen that Soviet-style change is imminent in their rigidly ruled state.

About 1,500 protesters demanding reform marched through the Baltic coast town of Greifswald in the first known opposition rally since Krenz took power. Hundreds of thousands of people have joined similar protests this month.

East Germans too disillusioned to seek change from inside have flooded to the West, legally and illegally. About 120,000 of the 16.6 million East Germans have left this year, including up to 60,000 through Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

It all amounts to the biggest challenge to communism in East Germany since 1953, when a workers' uprising rocked the state less than four years after its creation after World War II. The uprising was suppressed by Soviet tanks.

Acting fast to assert his authority and distance himself from Honecker's grey, conservative style, Krenz spent Thursday encouraging workers at an East Berlin machine tool plant to tell him of their grievances without fear of reprisal.

When workers gave him flowers in a ritual greeting seen in communist countries across the world, Krenz commented in the break, non-sensate style of Gorbachev: "one should only be given flowers when one has achieved something."

Cambodian refugees face bleak prospects

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Prospects for the return home of more than 300,000 Cambodian refugees now in Thailand have grown dimmer after the failure of recent peace efforts, relief workers said at a conference Friday.

"Repatriation is undoubtedly further away from us than it appeared even three months ago," said Urs Boegli, head of the Thailand office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Over the past year, diplomatic peace efforts increased so rapidly that many refugee-aid officials said it appeared a settlement was within grasp and the displaced Cambodians could soon go home. But international talks on Cambodia in Paris during the summer failed to settle the 11-year-old civil war.

Some 300,000 refugees who fled the brutal Khmer Rouge government and the Vietnamese invasion that ended it in late 1978 remain in United Nations-assisted camps on the Thai border.

With nearby fighting intensifying after what Vietnam called its final troop withdrawal late last month, the refugees face greater danger in their camps along the Thai-Cambodian border, Boegli said at an annual conference on the situation.

"Do we have to fear a fully fledged attack on the camps? Of course this possibility has to remain part of our security plan-

ning," he said.

He said the danger was increased by the presence of military personnel in the camps.

The United Nations recently reduced food aid to Site II, the largest camp, because it said supplies were being diverted to guerrilla fighters of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF). The non-communist KPNLF controls the camp.

The front is one of three guerrilla factions fighting the Vietnamese-installed government in Cambodia.

Even though repatriation prospects are dim, refugee-aid agencies still make preparations for the eventual return of the refugees, said S.A.M.S. Kibria, the U.N.'s special representative for Cambodian refugees.

"The time has come to look beyond our established role of providing basic emergency relief and consider greater emphasis on social programmes to support and rebuild the Khmer (Cambodian) community," he said.

"In the border camps there are children as old as 10 or 12 years of age who have never known life outside a refugee camp," Kibria said.

The longer they remain in the camps, he said, "the more serious becomes the risk that... we will return to Cambodia whole communities of socially handicapped persons unable to earn a living or readjust to conditions in their own country."

South Africa pushing anti-SWAPO drive

WINDHOEK, Namibia (AP) — A woman who quit her South African government job and acknowledged spying for the African National Congress (ANC) claims that South African officials are managing a covert operation to influence Namibia's elections, a newspaper reported Friday.

Susan Dobson, 26, said her job with the South African Bureau of Information included a campaign to discredit the South-West Africa People's Organisation, known as SWAPO, and the United Nations' contingent in Namibia to monitor the independence process, the Namibian newspaper said.

Dave Steward, head of the bureau of information, disputed Dobson's allegations, describing her as "a junior official who did not have access to sensitive material."

The information she gained was available to anyone," Steward said.

South Africa has ruled Namibia for 74 years, but has agreed to grant the territory independence under U.N. supervision. Elections for a national assembly are set for Nov. 7-11. The territory is expected to become independent early next year.

Dobson abruptly left her job in the Namibian capital of Windhoek Sept. 23, met her South African husband Peter Dobson in Botswana, and the couple then flew to London. The Namibian newspaper that supports SWAPO, reported that it interviewed the couple there.

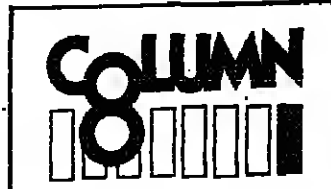
Dobson said she was part of a seven-person government contingent and that the operation had a \$5-million (\$1.3 million) budget. The group was charged with helping to promote SWAPO's main rival, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, a multiracial coalition that favours a capitalist economy, she claimed.

She contended that the team also was instructed to gather information on United Nations officials for the purpose of embarrassing them. The group had an entertainment allowance of 100,000 rand (\$38,000) for this purpose, she told the newspaper.

Any embarrassing information was to be fed to "selected journalists" working for anti-SWAPO newspapers, she said.

Dobson said the group also was instructed to make claims that there were divisions among the SWAPO leadership.

She contended that she was sent to interview Hans Dreyer, the commander of the notorious police counter-insurgency unit, KOEVOET.



Lowly spud is putting on the ritz

WASHINGTON (AP) — The lowly potato never had it so good. A bunch of potatoes from Idaho, California, Washington state, Michigan and faraway Chile was gussied up and served at a gourmet, seven-course luncheon Thursday by the renowned French chef, Jean-Louis Palladin, from the Watergate hotel and apartment complex. They were shredded, diced, pureed, baked, fried, simmered, glazed and dunked in rich cream sauces by Jean-Louis and his staff. Then they were escorted out of the kitchen by tuxedo-clad waiters under the bright glare of camera lights, to the oohs and aahs of a half-dozen diners. The all-potato menu was prepared for the benefit of a Japanese television crew that is touring the United States filming a half-hour history of the potato chip, which was supposed to have been invented in Saratoga Springs, New York, in 1853. To give the visiting Japanese an idea of the potato's versatility, Jean-Louis was asked to prepare a dream lunch featuring nothing but potato dishes. He happily obliged. "I was raised all my life with potatoes," he said.

Dog calls 911

WAUWATOSA, Wisconsin (AP) — Dispatcher Cheryl Ann Heck says the incoming call to the city's 911 emergency number sounded like it could be the work of a prankster — but she was not about to take any chances. "We could hear some clunking and clicking on the phone, and every once in a while you would hear the tones, like someone was depressing the push buttons," she said. She traced the call and sent police, medical and fire department personnel rushing to the address. Rescue workers broke into the locked house but found nobody home except the apparent emergency caller: A one-year-old basset hound named Mandy. "We've played back the tape several times," Heck said. "Once you know it's a dog, you can hear it gnawing on the phone and running down a hallway." Jim Jermain, manager of product marketing for Wisconsin Bell, said the dog apparently had been carrying and chewing on a cordless phone.

Briton comes under Paris fashion spell

PARIS (R) — The French fashion establishment has plenty to feel smug about. Having persuaded a handful of top Italian designers that Paris is the style centre of the world, it is now working the same spell on the British. Left-wing designer Katharine Hamnett is the latest convert to the cause, abandoning London to show her spring and summer collection in the French capital during eight days of ready-to-wear shows. "Katharine found showing in London last year was such a problem, said press spokeswoman Nancy Oakley, citing cramped seating arrangements and shabby facilities at the Hall in Olympia, compounded by Britain's traditional lack of interest in fashion. "Less and less buyers and press are coming to London and Katharine has to think of her own future... It would seem everyone's going to be showing in Paris. She's said about it but she's stayed in London long enough," said Oakley. Hamnett, 41, sparked a furore in 1984 when she was photographed shaking hands with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher while sporting a T-shirt bearing the slogan "58 per cent don't want Pershing," attacking the government's defence strategy.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	10	18	Cloudy
ATHENS	10	24	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	24	32	Clear
BANGKOK	25	37	Cloudy
Buenos Aires	14	24	Clear
CAIRO	14	24	Clear
CHICAGO	01	04	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	11	12	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	06	17	Cloudy
GENEVA	06	11	Cloudy
HONG KONG	19	26	Clear
ISTANBUL	10	18	Cloudy
LONDON	11	12	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	20	34	Clear
MADRID	11	22	Clear
MECCA	26	39	Cloudy
MONTREAL	00	02	Cloudy
MOSCOW	00	02	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	18	34	Clear
NEW YORK	05	10	Cloudy
PARIS	13	19	Cloudy
ROME	06	21	Clear
SYDNEY	17	28	Cloudy
TOKYO	14	22	Clear
VIENNA	08	16	Clear

JORDANIAN LAND TRANSPORT CO.

Tender No. (.../12/89)

Sale of brand new spare parts for truck tractors (M.A.N. - Steyr) (Custom duty unpaid)

Iraqi Jordanian Land Transport Company intends to sell quantity of brand new spare parts for truck tractors. Custom duties of those spare parts are unpaid.

Copies of terms and conditions and lists of spare parts can be bought from company's main offices in Jabal Amman, between Fourth and Fifth Circles, during working hours (0800 - 1400) for the sum of 25 Jordan Dinars (JD), starting from 21/10/89.

Closing dates for submitting offers is 25/11/89. (1200 hrs).

ENG. Jamil Ibrahim Director General

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